

THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

DEC makes its move in the race to a new generation of computers

DIGITAL EQUIPMENT Corp. (DEC) unveiled its next-generation computer-on-a-chip, completing the field in the high-stakes race to establish basic technology standards for a broad new range of high-performance computers.

The six contenders in this market — DEC, International Business Machines, Sun Microsystems, Intel, Hewlett-Packard and MIPS Computer Systems — will have to demonstrate not only raw speed, but also endurance, versatility and the ability to negotiate all manner of obstacles.

The current competition is centered around a technology known as reduced instruction set computing, or RISC. DEC's new 21064 microprocessor first developed in the early 1980s. RISC was first popularized by Sun Microsystems, which developed a line of high-powered workstations — used primarily by scientists and engineers — based on the so-called Sparc RISC design. By the late 1980s, most major computer companies were pursuing their own RISC designs, and were also coming around to the view that making their technology available to others was a key element in attracting software — and therefore customers.

Hewlett-Packard was the first one off the blocks, selling out in 1986 to convert its entire commitment in attracting software — and therefore customers.

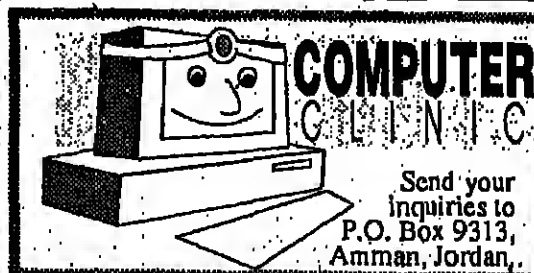
DEC's new 21064 microprocessor is now racing to complete the 586, which is compatible with the earlier chips but contains some RISC features. Digital became the last major entry in the race, rolling out its long-awaited Alpha line of RISC chips.

MIPS is aiming at this market as well, and is counting on support from the Advanced Computing Environment — a consortium trying to set standards for next-generation desk-top computers — to make that a reality. The key challenge of DEC, Hewlett-Packard and Sun, in fact, is to expand beyond their traditional customer bases. DEC, which is touting Alpha as the design that will support its whole product line for the next 25 years, may have the biggest problem. While Alpha will be a strong replacement for existing DEC products, it is way behind in gaining support from independent software vendors, and other computer makers may be reluctant to bet their future on a technology licensed from such a powerful competitor.

IBM, after a characteristically slow start, came out with a widely applied line of RISC work-

stations in 1990. Intel Corp., which dominates the market for personal computer microprocessors with its 386 and 486 products, is now racing to complete the 586, which is compatible with the earlier chips but contains some RISC features. Digital became the last major entry in the race, rolling out its long-awaited Alpha line of RISC chips.

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Q: Whenever I copy or xcopy a long list of files, about 200 to 250, from the hard disk to a 3.5 in. HD diskettes, I have the message "File Creation Error" near the end of the job. The file at which the error message occurs is OK since it can be copied individually and in case of xcopy continuing, xcopying on a fresh diskette will not cause the error. Is this a DOS error? Could

A: Yes, this is a DOS error, since the computer gave you a DOS error message which you can look up in your DOS manual under the chapter "Error Messages". It would appear that your diskette, being the one you used at first, had bad sectors or hidden files which did not allow you to undergo the process of creating files. The advice we can

give you is to use a new formatted disk and to make sure that it is properly formatted.

Virus Clinic

A COMMON belief held by many is that viruses can infect BIOS. The reason is because some viruses reappear after attempting to remove them through usual means and cannot be removed unless the internal battery is disconnected for some time. BIOS is actually an EPROM chip, meaning that the user cannot write on it and thus it cannot be infected by viruses. The BIOS chip contains special SETUP programs on AT machines. As for the special data related to the program, it is stored in the RAM space especially provided for it in order to keep this data when the system

Maurice E. Kalise, Amman, Jordan.

Walid Al-Asfar

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INTERFACE

See you in court: Lawsuits in the computer industry

IF YOU'VE been observing the international computer industry recently, you'll probably notice that there are many lawsuits flying around. Nowadays, it seems as though everybody is suing everybody. The reason is rather simple. Thanks to copyrights and patents (laws that protect the rights of the author or publisher), things are starting to get out of hand.

The fashion at the moment is to sue for the infringement of rights in operating systems. The operating systems market is very huge and you can safely say that it involves millions, if not billions, of dollars worldwide.

Let's take the biggest and most famous software company in the world, Microsoft Corp. This company makes billions of dollars every year from its operating systems on the market. Like any other software, operating systems enjoy the protection of the law and that means that any company that doubts that somebody out there is imitating its operating system can take the criminal offender to court.

Windows, Microsoft's window operating system, is at the center of several legal battles at the moment. If you're an IBM PC & compatibles owner, Windows probably saved your life by breathing life into your extremely user-unfriendly system. Still, PC owners could not live happily ever after since Apple Computer Inc. think that Windows is actually the Macintosh operating system in disguise, which it is. The Macintosh has been running a user-friendly window driven environment ever since the machine was released and to which its success is attributed. Apple lost out on this advantage when Microsoft released Windows, especially seeing as it has become the standard operating system for the PC with sales exceeding 9 million copies of the latest version released only ten months ago. Apple have estimated their losses as a result at around \$3 billion in profits. So its obvious that the whole thing revolves around money, and lots of it.

Microsoft has also exchanged threats and lawsuits with Kuwaiti company Alalamiah because of Alalamiah's Sukhr Ambization Kit for Windows (SAK), which could destroy the possibilities of Microsoft's marketing of an Arabic version of windows in the Middle East. Alalamiah answered to this by accusing Microsoft of stealing some of its employees shortly after the Gulf Crisis and, thus, transferring company secrets which could also be worth money.

What is scary about this whole thing is that people are suing one another over ideas. This whole thing may gradually kill the creativity in the computer industry. New software always uses old ideas which are developed to better serve the user. Programmers could simply stop developing software rather than suffer headaches from being dragged to court. Whether it's Microsoft, Apple or Alalamiah, does anybody have the right to declare undisputed ownership of such an important development in the computer industry such as window operating systems?

is switched off. This process is performed by an internal battery which some viruses might be able to sneak into. They may remain in it as long as the system's battery is on. So disconnecting the battery involves the erasing of the contents found in the BIOS RAM which may include the virus.

Walid Al-Asfar

The Jordan Computer Society (JCS) would like to announce that it has moved its headquarters downstairs in the same building. The new telephone number and fax is 683549.

Walid Al-Asfar

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The Star
Jordanian newspaper, published weekly

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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The Star
Wishes its His
Majesty King
Hussein and the
Jordanian people a
happy Eid El Fitr.
Due to the holiday,
the next issue of
The Star will
appear on 16 April.

**INSIDE
The WorldPaper**
GLOBAL SHAKE-UP

Revolutions are sweeping through the world bringing unexpected changes, as if history were in a hurry to end the 20th century. This issue of *The WorldPaper* features reflections from around the world on the scale of change in our world today and addresses the question: Are we really experiencing the birth of a new era?

Le Jourdain
Section française du Star

**Ramadan, le
cauchemar du
consommateur**
Page 5



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Samia Zaru defines the art of creativity

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

ANYONE CAN be a teacher, but there are few who teach creatively. Samia Zaru is one of those teachers that students never forget. In taking her art classes, her students learn to be more than artistically expressive. They experience challenges; the joy of experimenting and researching worlds around and within. They learn how to observe and interact and how to appreciate what they sense and see.

According to Samia, every student is artistic to a certain degree. She believes that it is a teacher's

task to stimulate a student's growth, by giving him freedom of choice in terms of concepts, materials and the skills he is ready to take on and explore.

She also believes that students should learn to appreciate art, as a means for both making their lives happier and enriching their feelings and world understanding.

An artist herself, Samia has exhibited her work all over the world and has been awarded many times on an international level. She works in acrylics and oils on canvas, sculpture in metal and uses different media in weaving and collage. Her recent works

are collages of embroidery on Palestinian themes, painted on tent canvas.

It was her involvement in art that led her to teach, she said, and she argues that creative teaching is the best method available, because it is the most effective way in which to develop a child as both an individual and a member of society.

"Once we open our eyes in the morning, we enter the world of art," she said. "The furniture around us, beautiful scenery from our window, designs on clothes we wear, objects we use at every step. It is very important to see that. For this reason, I teach my



Children work on a mural in a Ramallah school

students the art of seeing and experimenting at first, then I guide them towards relating what they see to what they feel.

For Samia, a teacher should be extremely sensitive to students'

moods, interests and desires, and should treat a student as a unique person with hidden abilities to be reached through proper teaching methods.

"If one approach doesn't work with a child, I shift into another, and if doesn't work well I try other alternatives. But I never put all students in the same direction. It will only kill their creativity, and my aim is to keep on challenging their specific interests and abilities until they respond. This is how we establish everybody's unique background for working at later stages," she said.

Samia insists that when students work at their own pace dealing with their own interests and skills, they always come up with something that satisfies them artistically. She could not recall one hopeless case: "There was always a corner or a line or movement that was a good sign of progress," she said, "and I would reward that. The student would be encouraged to go on looking for other situations in which to improve what he had achieved."

Samia's classes usually start with an invitation to discuss the students' feelings and contemplations for that day. She observed that so many things go on in a child's mind and that her students love to talk about them.

"As soon as they let their ideas out, I process them and relate them to their previous art work. Then I guide them into incorporating new experiences into what they know, and stimulating them into expressing them artistically."

Briefly outlining her teaching methods, Samia stressed the four general trends in her approach: A materials directed approach, which requires experimenting with different materials, a skills directed approach, which challenges and stimulates the mastering of skills, a concept directed approach, which is a very personal way of communicating through color, texture, lines, designs and movements and a topic directed approach, which is applied to students at later stages. In this final approach, students choose a theme to be investigated, explored and researched in the form of ideas, techniques and styles.

Samia's observation is that every person can train and develop certain art skills, but that only a few will ever be creative.

"I cannot teach anybody to be creative. Creativity is how one makes a summary of ideas and expresses them; the way he handles his artistic experience, and the way he transfers his experience into an original artistic expression. And, for all this, there should be a special magic in a person, which I believe is an inherited quality," she elaborated.

Samia's students' work shows a very different selection of topics, media, themes, techniques and concepts. They show great under-

Continued on opposite page

By Lina Arafat
Special to The Star

ONE YEAR in retrospect, it is evident that the Gulf crisis has dealt Jordan and its people a number of devastating economic, demographic and social blows with both immediate and long-term implications. These setbacks first occurred at a time when the Jordanian government was busy implementing economic adjustment measures and policies recommended by the International Monetary Fund, in an attempt to correct economic imbalances and proceed on a path of stable, though modest, economic growth.

Among the various adverse economic effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordan was the sudden, and massive, influx of returnees. Based on a survey conducted by the National Center for Educational Research and Development (NCRD) and the Department of Statistics, figures indicate that some 300,000 Jordanians and Palestinians have returned, mainly from Kuwait and other Gulf countries, in addition to an estimated number of 20,000 Iraqis and people of other nationalities.

International and national statistical sources consider that Jordanian returnees are composed of two categories, Jordanians and Palestinians living in the East Bank, and Palestinians holding a Jordanian passport and living in the West Bank. It is known that a majority of the Jordanian-Palestinian community in the Gulf states has its origins in the West Bank, but a large percentage of this category are not allowed to go back to their homeland due to Israeli restrictions that force them to remain in the East Bank. Jordan's Ministry of Interior estimated recently that the number of those returning to West Bank constitute around 10 per cent of the total number of returnees.

NCRD and Department of Statistics figures reveal that the 300,000 returnees form a total labor force volume of 70,500, representing 9.5 per cent of the projected population and labor force in Jordan up until the end of 1991, had the Gulf crisis not occurred.

Out of the 300,000 returnees,

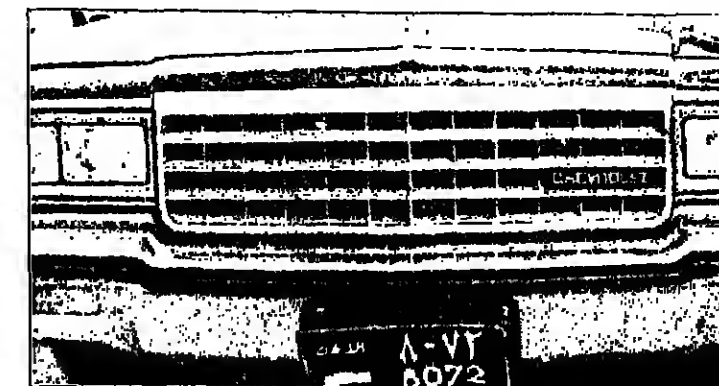
Influx of returnees leads to shift in Jordan's economy

the number of students is estimated to be around 100,000. Almost 95 per cent of returnee students are enrolled in the governorate of Amman. The number of students estimated to have been enrolled in higher education institutions is 10,000, of whom 5,000 are at community college level, with the remainder being in the universities.

Consequently, Jordan is faced with a number of obstacles relating to the adequate absorption of these returnees. Economic problems and shortages in water supplies have meant that Jordan is experiencing difficulty in coping with the large numbers of people now seeking homes to shelter them and jobs to provide them with incomes, and also in dealing with the new structure of society. Such problems all serve to further increase the pressure on Jordan's fragile economy. The presence of such a huge influx of people has forced unemployment and inflation, while water and social services are also being used to full capacity. Lacking international aid, the government can do very little to offer relief or job opportunities to the returnees, large numbers of whom are both professional and skilled.

Nonetheless, various measures have been taken by the Jordanian government so as to cope with the returnees' immediate needs and the adverse effects of their presence on the economy. Government schools are now operated daily on a double-shift basis, while water rationing has been implemented so as to guarantee a constant minimum and fair distribution level. The government has also recently announced the commencement of a long-term repayment plan allowing returnees possessing non-Jordanian-licensed cars to pay customs duty on their vehicles over a period of four years.

The government has also had to increase its expenditure levels for public amenities and services. Despite belt-tightening in some



areas and increased efforts to maximize government revenues, progress made prior to the Gulf crisis in reducing the government deficit has ceased or even reversed. Thus the government has undertaken measures designed to encourage the inflow of capital,

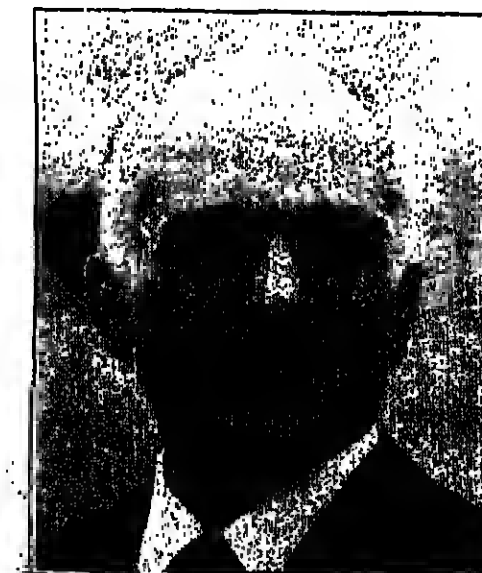
both Jordanian and non-Jordanian, as well as from both private and official sources.

According to the latest reports of the Economic and Social Council for West Asia (ESCWA), the total costs of absorbing the returnees will run to \$3,141

million, covering the three-year period of 1992 to 1994. Such a financial burden is clearly beyond the means of Jordan's limited resources.

In addition, despite initially positive effects on Jordan's balance of payments stemming from the one-time capital brought home by the returnees, the effects of the returnees on the balance of payments over the coming few years are expected to be negative. ESCWA projects that between 1992 and 1994, imports will increase by an estimated \$570 million and remittances will fall by an estimated \$825 million, due to the return of the expatriate workers.

The need for external aid from the major credit donor countries and regional and international organizations is very clear. Amounts already received by Jordan, though, appreciated, appear to be lower than the country's needs. The returnees issue may be looked upon as a humanitarian one, albeit one less tragic than those caused by natural disasters and wars. ■



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ROYAL JORDANIAN





Jalal Rifai/Ad-Dustour

Our Say...

Banking on tourism

THE MEETING of over 1000 Italian tour operators in Amman this week for their annual congress (FIAVET) is an important event in Jordan's tourism world. To choose Jordan as the venue of this year's congress marks the beginning of the end of the setback to Jordan's tourism as a result to the Gulf War. The Ministry of Tourism and Jordanian tour operators hope to make use of the occasion to market Jordan as an ideal place for Italian tourists, and indeed other Europeans, to spend and enjoy their holidays. We hope the Italian agents will get the message and will circulate it in their country. Before the eruption of the Gulf crisis Italians were by far ahead of others to visit Jordan in terms of numbers. Even as the market recovers the Italians can be seen strolling in downtown alleys, and sightseeing in Petra and Jerash or swimming in Aqaba and the Dead Sea.

It is not a secret that Jordan enjoys a tremendous advantage over neighbouring countries in its attractiveness to foreign tourists. The mild weather, clean uncrowded and unspoiled sites, the variety of archaeological spots and the charm of its people have all played a vital role in putting Jordan on the tourists' map. But it hasn't been easy. Political turmoil in the region, economic hardships at home and fierce competition from neighbours, namely Israel and Egypt, put Jordan at a disadvantage. Consequently, little public and private sector attention was focused on investing in the tourism sector, resulting in a humble growth in that sector's potential and capacity.

But as Jordan looks to diversify its sources of income, while readjusting to the new political and economic realities of the day, the importance of tourism as a full-fledged sector of the national economy becomes clearer. Planners must look at Jordan's historical and archaeological treasures, the beauty of its wild desert and underdeveloped coastlines in Aqaba and the Dead Sea as a major source of income supporting the national economy. Jordan's proximity to the Holy Land, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon will help make the Kingdom an important stop on the itinerary of any visitor to the region.

To do so, millions of dinars will be needed to build luxury hotels, modern facilities and roads. Most of all, a vicious marketing campaign will have to be launched to put Jordan in the forefront of tourist attractions. To do this, foreign and local investments must be invited and in order to attract foreign investments, our laws and regulations will have to be amended and improved so as to limit red-tape and provide a safe haven for foreign investors.

But while tourism needs to become a priority in Jordan's economic thinking so does the need to study the experiences of countries like Egypt, Turkey, Cyprus and Morocco, where tourism is a billion-dollars industry.

On the other hand, Jordan cannot afford to see its fragile environment, its unique cultural heritage in Petra, Jerash, Pella and other sites be destroyed by over-exploitation and heavy commercialization. That will be a short-sighted policy which will result in chaos and irreversible damage.

The private sector will have to work closely with the government in forging a long-term plan to revive and boost tourism sector. To strike a balance between the needs of the economy and the cultural, social and ecological dimensions of the whole tourism business, the government must talk to investors, tourism experts and economists both at home and abroad and listen to their needs and requirements. It won't be easy, but it would be a step in the right direction. The government has failed so far to make tourism an industry in Jordan for lack of funds or interest. Now is the time to learn from past mistakes and rectify them.

Mideast & Europe: Towards an integrated dialogue

Until recently the Arab world looked to Europe as the mediator that could influence the international quest for a Middle East settlement. But Europe's preoccupation with itself has dashed those hopes. Although the Maastricht summit raised the prospects of a new European approach to the Middle East, material progress has been lacking. A new study has made strong and urgent recommendations for change.

By Sajid Rizvi

LONDON — For several years now European peacemakers have made occasional appearances on the Middle East scene, without success and without the will apparently to achieve anything permanent. The European Community's approaches have been sincere at best and misguided at worst and most have preceded the beginning of Europe's preoccupation with itself.

With that less than impressive track record of diplomatic success, what hope can there be for a new peace initiative from an integrated Europe? What chance indeed is there of Europe being able to do anything at all in the Middle East when it has failed so scandalously to keep the peace in Yugoslavia? Is Europe the peacemaker relevant to the Middle East?

These questions have gnawed at the minds of most observers of the interrelationship between the continent and the Arab world.

But now another element of self-interest has made Europe suddenly aware of the hard realities that bind the two regions together. It's not oil, it's not the weapons bazaar and it's not the prospect of anti-European regimes foisted on top of friendly ones. It is in fact the politically explosive matter of the influx of migrants and asylum seekers from the unstable Middle Eastern lands to the hard pressed but still prosperous societies of the West.

The burgeoning population of asylum seekers has long been high on the unspoken 'security' agenda of Europe, but at Maastricht last year it kept policymakers and negotiators busy for hours. With most European economies flagging and right-wing nationalist politicians wailing in the wings to supplant 'weaklings' of both right and left, European states have a large stake in addressing the Middle East more seriously than ever before if for no other reason than to stem the tide of immigration. Already a similar threat looms on their eastern border with rampant instability in the former states of the Soviet empire.

Europe then, for the first time since the Second World War, has pressing internal security reasons for getting involved with the Middle East. This is being argued by policymakers and Middle East specialists alike across a whole spectrum. One specialist group to emerge with clear guidelines is the Federal Trust for Education and Research, which since 1940 has backed the idea of a European federation.

In a report produced by a study group comprising 35 European, Arab and Iranian experts, the Trust sees greater integration of Europe and the Middle East as the European Community's 'principal objective'.

As trust director Gary Miller says,



"while the West's, and particularly Europe's interest in helping to reduce the explosive potential of Middle Eastern instability is clear in the issues of oil supplies, the acquisition and/or maintenance of markets, and the avoidance of spill-over effects of regional Middle Eastern conflicts, Europe has a further reason for concern given the likelihood of an increase in immigration and/or refugee pressures as a result of economic failure and political upheaval in the Middle East."

A European initiative could consist of a greater effort to contribute toward establishing viable economic, political and cultural ties with the Middle East, a more meaningful control on weapons sales and proliferation and a continued insistence on the principle of land for peace (implying Arab recognition of Israel).

But the report warns that Europe should not attempt to impose its own models onto the Middle East otherwise the whole exercise will flop.

Miller says, "We believe this very comprehensive report will give a new, badly needed impetus to European thinking on the Middle East. We believe the EC must be prepared to commit a far higher proportion of its budget to the solution of Middle Eastern problems."

Asked if the trust's hope of the EC accepting its recommendations were realistic, Miller told Academic File, "The situation at the moment is very pessimistic. We don't expect the community to accept many of our recommendations." However, he added, the trust intended to persist with its recommendations anyway.

One key guideline to the community relates to the basic matter of how to approach the Middle East, i.e. as a monolithic community, as a group of states or as a cluster of groups.

The best interest of the region and of Europe will be served, says the trust, by separating out the different 'realms' of the Gulf, the Arab-Israeli realm, the eastern Arab world, the western Arab world and tackling their problems separately, unless there was sufficient ground for overarching cooperation. The trust's main concern is that the lack of progress in one realm should not prevent initiatives in another.

But will the community heed those recommendations? Most specialists involved with the region believe that the community would only move if it saw the threat closer to its doorstep than it has so far.

Academic File

Sajid Rizvi is the managing editor of Academic File.

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star



Les prix de la viande importée sont maintenant à la baisse

Mois de Ramadan

Le cauchemar du consommateur

Pendant trente-jours, la valse des étiquettes a fait de la Jordanie, l'une de ses victimes. Reportage.

SALEM, JORDANIEN moyen, fonctionnaire des PTT, et père de trois enfants ont une habitude: manquer de vivres pendant le mois de carême. Résultat: la valse des étiquettes, maladie bien connue des économistes à fait de la Jordanie, l'une de ses victimes. Les produits non subventionnés par le gouvernement, légumes, fruits et viandes ont été les premiers touchés. Les portemonnaies ont connu des jours difficiles.

Pendant Ramadan, Salem s'est mis à détester la viande. Trop chère. "Pour tout vous dire, je n'aime pas le poisson, mais depuis que la viande 'Balady' (NDLR: mouton ou veau élevé en fermes) est à cinq Dinars le kilo, je commence à apprécier ces petites créatures". Obéissant, le bon père de famille se presse, prend son sac à provisions et se rend au marché aux légumes de la basse ville. "Je n'ai pas trouvé de fèves vertes dans mon quartier, à Shrafiya. Au centre-ville, elles coûtaient pratiquement trois JD le kilo, vous vous rendez-compte?" s'étonne Salem. Il n'en revient pas: "Pour le même prix j'ai trois kilos de poulet! En plus, j'ai dû faire la queue pour acheter des tomates à un JD le kilo, du citron hors de prix, sans parler du persil intro-

Magasins assaillis

Dès le début de Ramadan, les magasins de la société jordanienne de consommation ont subi les assauts d'une foule nerveuse et déjà fatiguée par les obligations du carême. En deux jours, ils ont été pratiquement dévalisés. Les marchés de fruits et légumes ont subi le même sort. Après cinq tempêtes de neige

consécutives, les habitants du royaume n'avaient qu'une hantise: manquer de vivres pendant le mois de carême. Résultat: la valse des étiquettes, maladie bien connue des économistes à fait de la Jordanie, l'une de ses victimes. Les produits non subventionnés par le gouvernement, légumes, fruits et viandes ont été les premiers touchés. Les portemonnaies ont connu des jours difficiles.

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Après dix jours de Ramadan, notre consommateur moyen a vu sa dépense totale de 130 Dinars par mois. Seule porte de sortie pour assurer la fin de mois: l'avance sur salaire. C'est, loin d'être la panacée. "L'ANL, c'est pour bientôt! Il va falloir aller à la friperie pour acheter les vêtements des enfants...", Salem n'est

pas au bout de ses peines.

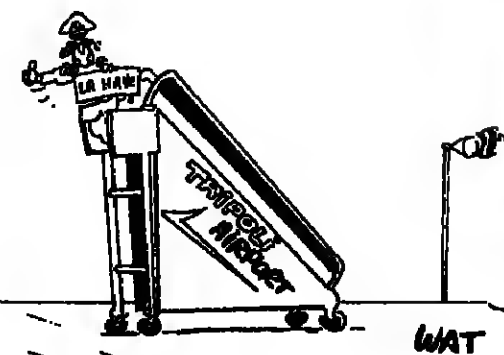
Pour résoudre ce type de problèmes, le gouvernement a fait vite. Dès la fin de la première semaine, il a autorisé le secteur privé à importer de la viande bulgare. Une sorte de produit de substitution, mais de première qualité. Son goût s'apparente à celui de la viande 'Balady'. Son prix est raisonnable: 2,75 JD. Des arrivages quotidiens de veaux et de moutons ont ainsi alimenté le pays. Plus tard, des poulets en provenance des USA sont venus garnir les étalages. Pour faire face aux carences du marché local.

Aujourd'hui, les prix des produits non-subventionnés retrouvent leurs cours normaux. La viande importée est à la baisse. Vendredi dernier, le kilo est passé de 2,75 JD à 2,60. La flambee du début du mois semble, maintenant terminée. Mais elle laisse ses stigmates sur les étiquettes jordanienues. Depuis l'année dernière, les prix des produits non-subventionnés ont augmenté d'environ 15%.

Le mois de Ramadan, cauchemar du consommateur, fait le bonheur de quelques uns. "Un fermier ne voulait pas me vendre du lait, se plaint Ali, instituteur, il m'a expliqué qu'il préférait le garder pour en faire du beurre et qu'il allait vendre au prix fort à des nouveaux arrivés du Koweït".

Ahmad Nsour

EMBARGO DE L'ONU



Avec son nouveau modèle, la Safrane, la régie française Renault entame une nouvelle génération des hauts de gamme. La Scenic va succéder en fin d'année à la Renault Espace. Renault, qui était au bord de la faillite en 1984 est en train de gagner la bataille de la qualité.

CRISE - Le gouvernement français est confronté à une situation de crise, après la démission samedi dernier de l'un de ses ministres, Jean-Pierre Solson. Celui-ci est fortement soupçonné d'avoir bénéficié des voix de l'extrême-droite dans une élection régionale. Le ministre de la Fonction publique a rendu son tablier, à la suite de son élection controversée vendredi à la présidence du Conseil régional de Bourgogne (Centre).

EXTRADITION - Un juge français a demandé à la Libye d'extrader un membre de l'organisation Abu Nidal, accusé d'avoir organisé l'attaque d'un navire de croisière grec en 1988. Le juge Jean-Louis Brugnière est chargé de ce dossier, car trois des neuf victimes dans l'attaque du 'City of Poros' étaient françaises. Un Palestinien de 41 ans fait l'objet d'un mandat d'arrêt international depuis le 27 février. Selon l'Agence France Presse, M. Khadir possède un passeport libyen et vit en Libye.

TROUPES - La France va envoyer davantage de troupes au Nord de Djibouti, dans le but d'obtenir un cessez-le-feu entre les forces gouvernementales et les rebelles. Un escadron (12 tanks et 60 hommes) devrait être dirigé vers Yoboki, à 160 kilomètres au nord de Djibouti, ont annoncé les autorités françaises.

TUNIS - Le principal groupe de l'OLP, Fateh, s'est déclaré impliqué samedi dans la création, "dans le futur", d'une confédération entre la Jordanie et un possible Etat palestinien. Cette hypothèse union sera un choix volontaire et libre de la part des deux pays", affirmait le Fateh Conseil Révolutionnaire dans un communiqué. Quelques officiels de l'OLP considèrent que cette idée peut entraver les négociations de paix entre Arabes et Israéliens.

BEYROUTH - Le ministre de la Défense a annoncé samedi qu'il avait ordonné le déploiement d'un bataillon supplémentaire dans le sud du Liban, à proximité du secteur contrôlé par Israël. Au total 350 soldats, 6 tanks ont pris position dans huit villages dans le secteur ouest de la vallée de la Bekaa. Ces villages se situent à dix kilomètres à peine de la "zone de sécurité". La tension est forte dans le sud du Liban depuis l'attentat à la bombe de l'ambassade d'Israël en Argentine le 17 mars dernier.

ISRAEL - Israël a obtenu un prêt de 243 millions de dollars du Fonds Monétaire International (FMI), en raison des pertes dans le secteur du tourisme pendant la guerre du Golfe et de la crise de la demande de produits manufacturés. C'est le FMI qui a annoncé la nouvelle, vendredi dans un communiqué.

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Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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Osama El-Sherif

March
1992

The World Paper

HISTORY ACCELERATED

FROM SIBERIA which was once synonymous with exile to South Africa which is still synonymous with discrimination, the ideas of democracy and civil rights are winning the long battle with autocracy—the standard form of government since the beginning of history.

With political freedoms come free market economies, sweeping away state control and promising in time if not an age of plenty, at least an age of entrepreneurship, with East Asia setting the pace.

To adjust to the new world order, borders are changing. Nations merge into supranational federations and trading blocs. Leaders rise and fall. In business, national markets give way to global markets. A pop culture, mainly American in origin—in music, African American—spreads across the world. Great cities become multinational and multicultural in population and flavor.

As countries come to understand and accept the extent of their interdependence, there seems most hopefully of all, to be a turning away from confrontation and toward cooperation. The Cold War is over, old enemies are



Stop the world—we want to reflect. Revolutions are sweeping through the world bringing changes of biblical proportions both exciting and bewildering. It is as if history were in a hurry to be done with the bloody 20th century and to start again with a new and, perhaps, better world.

seeking new and peaceful solutions to their disputes, reducing the size of their armies and slashing defense budgets.

But revolutions seldom produce the results intended, and they often consume first the revolutionaries who began it all. Wherever there are changes for the better, there are also reverse currents warning that the future, as always, is unpredictable. While it is plain enough that new technologies of communication have been the driving force of change around the globe, the process has not ended. In fact, the rate of technological innovation is speeding up, making possible changes in the human condition more profound than any yet experienced.

The speed and scale of change in our world are so great, so far beyond human experience, that we cannot hope to record it all, let alone grasp the implications of forecast the future. Is this really a time of earth-shaking revolution, or merely just another tremor? This issue of *The World Paper*, like a seismograph, tries to measure the global earthquake that is shaking our world today.

31 MARCH 1992

SUPPLEMENT

THE STAR 1

The **Star**
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and cultural weekly

**SUPPLEMENTO
SPECIALE IN
OCCASIONE
DEL 29.º
CONGRESSO
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**FIAVET
comes to
Jordan!**

AMMAN (Star)— THE ITALIAN Federation of Travel and Tourism (FIAVET) will be holding its yearly congress in Jordan at the invitation of the Ministry of Tourism. About one thousand tour operators are coming to Jordan on the first of April where they will be spending five days touring and getting acquainted with different areas of the Kingdom. Petra is one of the cities to be visited by 500 tour operators as well as the Dead Sea and Jerash.

According to Nasri Atalla, Secretary General at the Ministry of Tourism, already 800 participants have signed on for this conference that is going to be held in Amman. 80 per cent of the people coming have never been to Jordan before. It is hoped that on their return home, the tour operators will include Jordan on their market.

Similar meetings are held every two years in order to introduce a new country and as part of a holiday programme for these people.

"I think this is a great honour for Jordan, especially after the Gulf war," commented Atallah. He said that this conference proves that Jordan is a safe country, and that tourism is back on its way. All the traditional markets will know about this event, and it is hoped that this will encourage them to put Jordan back on the agenda.

Other federations have been invited to hold their conferences in Jordan, but unfortunately the German Federation has been booked up for the next five years, said Atallah.



A message from the Minister of Tourism to the FIAVET group

THE MINISTRY of Tourism & Antiquities, on behalf of all Jordanians, is delighted to welcome to Jordan this week more than one-thousand Italian travel agents and tour operators who are here for the meeting of their trade association FIAVET. This is indeed an appropriate milestone in the long friendship between the people of Jordan and Italy, which has been reflected recently in sharp increases in the numbers of Italian visitors to Jordan.

We seek to promote cross-cultural, people-to-people interaction as a vital foundation for a world of understanding, tolerance and peace — and we see the FIAVET meeting in Jordan this month as a mutual Jordanian-Italian affirmation of our commitment to this noble goal. We wish our Italian friends and colleagues a pleasant visit in Jordan, and we stand ready to provide any assistance or service they may require to make their stay amongst us enjoyable and fruitful.

Yahia Hikmat
Minister of Tourism & Antiquities



Un messaggio dell'Ambasciatore italiano alla Fiavet

I rapporti culturali, economici e commerciali fra il Regno Hashemita di Giordania e la Repubblica Italiana si sono sempre più intensificati nel corso degli anni.

Dal 1970 al 1991 circa 18.000 cittadini giordani hanno effettuato gli studi universitari e post-universitari presso atenei italiani, contribuendo a rafforzare i legami tra i due paesi.

A partire dagli inizi degli anni ottanta si è registrato un continuo aumento del flusso turistico italiano verso la Giordania, grazie alla ricchezza del patrimonio culturale, storico e archeologico del paese e alla tradizionale ospitalità del popolo giordano.

Il turista italiano nel corso di questo anno ha scoperto oltre a Petra e Jerash numerosi altri siti (Madaba, Monte Nebo, Macharonte, Umm Qais, Wadi Rum, Umm er Rasas) che meritano di essere visitati.

E' stata quindi molto significativa e importante la scelta di Amman per il ventinovesimo congresso della Federazione Italiana Associazioni Imprese Viaggi e Turismo che avrà luogo dal 1º al 5 aprile 1992.

Rivolgo il mio caloroso saluto a tutti i partecipanti del congresso Fiavet, augurando loro un proficuo lavoro e un felice soggiorno in questo meraviglioso paese.



L'Ambasciatore d'Italia in Giordania
Dr. Francesco de Courten

Battista Foderaro:

'Turismo e Pace: la Fiavet in Giordania'

LA SCELTA di Amman e quella del tema "Turismo e pace: la Fiavet in Giordania" per il ventinovesimo Congresso della Fiavet non sono state certo casuali, ma rappresentano il frutto di una particolare riflessione da parte degli agenti di viaggio sulla situazione politica internazionale oltre che su quella strettamente collegata al turismo.

Questi due aspetti - quello politico e quello legato ai viaggi e alle vacanze - apparentemente disaggregati, per chi volesse esaminare la questione superficialmente, sono viceversa strettamente interdipendenti in quanto non può esservi viaggio spiritualmente appagante senza la giusta atmosfera, così come non vi possono essere soddisfacenti direttive di vertice di ordine generale se direttamente o indirettamente si mette un bavaglio a chi vorrebbe impiegare il tempo libero per vedere il mondo. Si tratta quindi di evitare ogni forma di violenza a quella libertà di movimento che è all'essenza della nostra vita e di ogni regime veramente democratico.

Dopo la guerra nel Golfo, con le sue drammatiche conseguenze caratterizzate nel settore da un abbattimento sino al 90% delle prenotazioni per certe destinazioni, si è andati avanti tra alti e bassi, ma anche quando le cose sono andate veramente meglio (nel riferimento all'alta stagione estiva ed a quella invernale) è rimasta la sen-

sazione di un qualcosa che tiene un po' in sospeso, perché connessa ad una realtà dai contorni spesso oscuri. I capovolgimenti nei paesi dell'Est Europeo, per quanto positivi, destano tuttora notevoli allarmi. E poi gli attentati di frange eversive in più paesi europei, la crisi economica americana e, per venire alle cose di casa nostra, la difficile campagna elettorale, i lutti, gli scioperi nei trasporti che bloccano la gente e reprimono il desiderio di viaggiare.

A fronte di tutto ciò, con il congresso in Giordania, la Fiavet e con essa certamente tutte le componenti del turismo italiano vogliono lanciare un messaggio di "pace": un messaggio che, a ridosso della tornata elettorale nel nostro Paese in un difficile momento, si estende a tutti ed a tutto. Gli agenti di viaggio, pionieri e realizzatori di indispensabili forme di collegamento e di avvicinamento tra i popoli, vogliono ribadire il loro impegno civile affinché cessino le tensioni, ovunque si sviluppino, e con esse i deleteri allarmismi con i quali, di fatto, non si consente un sereno trascorrere della vita. Ai messaggi negativi che da più parti pervengono, la Fiavet contrappone la positività di un contributo affinché gli ideali del turismo si trasformino in reali fattori di progresso e di pace. Ciò sul piano generale. In particolare, la missione ad Amman è tesa a rinsal-

dare i vincoli di amicizia dei popoli che affacciano sul Mediterraneo e che vivono nella grande area circostante uniti da una comune tradizione storica e culturale. E' un segnale, dunque, di buona volontà che noi ci auguriamo venga raccolto nel suo significato più profondo, costituendo l'avvio di una ripresa dell'umana solidarietà.

In questa auspicata solidarietà, la scelta di Amman vuole significare anche la nostra volontà di intensificare i rapporti turistici tra l'Italia ed un Paese così ricco di contenuti storici ed artistici. Ad esso si collega tradizionalmente il ricordo di una vasta letteratura e di una importante produzione iconografica, che, da sempre, hanno attirato viaggiatori di tutto il mondo verso la Giordania. Si tratta di un punto di riferimento di grande importanza per l'affinamento della macchina turistica, tesa a seguire adeguatamente l'evoluzione di una domanda più sofisticata e diversificata, che postula nuovi interventi operativi e rinnovata fantasia nell'organizzazione di una trasferta. Non vi sarebbe certo un concreto mercato turistico medio-orientale senza la Giordania, con il suo peso politico e la sua volontà di distinguersi in termini anche di accoglienza ed ospitalità. Ed è verso questo Paese amico che rivolgiamo particolare attenzione, nella certezza che i messaggi lanciati con il prossimo



Battista Foderaro

Congresso saranno recepiti dalla nostra utenza turistica, affascinata non solo dai contenuti culturali di un viaggio nel paese della "città rosa", ma anche dai molteplici richiami paesaggistici, nel segno di una natura incontaminata in grado di riportare indietro

nel tempo e nello spazio, alla ricerca dell'essenza della vita.

Battista Foderaro
Presidente FIAVET
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Cronologia del Regno Hascemita di Giordania

■ 1915 - corrispondenza tra il governo britannico (MacMahon) e lo Sceriffo Hussein.
 ■ 1916 - giugno: inizio della Grande Rivolta Araba guidata dallo Sceriffo Hussein Bin Ali. Accordi anglo-francesi "Sykes-Picot".
 ■ 1918 - ottobre: il principe Faysal, figlio dello Sceriffo Hussein, occupa Damasco con le truppe arabe.
 ■ 1920 - conferenza di Sanremo: Francia e Gran Bretagna si dividono il Medio Oriente sotto forma di mandato. I francesi occupano Damasco.
 ■ 1923 - 25 maggio: la Transgiordania viene riconosciuta uno Stato indipendente sotto la guida dell'Emiro Abdallah.
 ■ 1931 - John Bagot Glubb, ufficiale britannico, viene trasferito in Transgiordania come vicecomandante della Legione Araba.
 ■ 1939 - il mandato britannico sulla Transgiordania viene esteso per 10 anni. Glubb sostituisce Peake al comando della Legione Araba.
 ■ 1945 - 22 marzo: la Transgiordania è tra i fondatori della Lega Araba.
 ■ 1946 - 22 marzo: la Gran Bretagna rinuncia al suo mandato sulla Transgiordania. 25 maggio: viene proclamato il Regno Hascemita di Transgiordania.
 ■ 1948 - 15 maggio: la Gran Bretagna si ritira dalla Palestina e viene proclamato lo Stato di Israele. Scoppio il primo conflitto arabo-israeliano. Le truppe di Glubb occupano la Cisgiordania e la parte vecchia di Gerusalemme.
 ■ 1949 - gli U.S.A. riconoscono la Transgiordania.
 ■ 1950 - 24 aprile: la Cisgiordania viene formalmente annessa al

Regno Hascemita, che da questa data viene denominato di Giordania.
 ■ 1951 - 20 luglio: Re Abdallah viene assassinato da un nazionalista palestinese a Gerusalemme. Viene proclamato Re il primogenito di Abdallah, Talal, che il 1.º gennaio 1952 promulga una nuova Costituzione e tenta di avvicinarsi politicamente ad Egitto e Siria.
 ■ 1952 - 11 agosto: a causa delle precarie condizioni di salute, Talal viene deposto e assume la reggenza suo figlio Hussein ancora minore.
 ■ 1953 - 2 maggio: al compimento del 18.º compleanno, secondo il calendario musulmano, Hussein assume il potere.
 ■ 1956 - 1 marzo: la pressione popolare spinge il giovane monarca a destituire il colonnello britannico Glubb comandante della Legione Araba.
 ■ 1958 - nasce l'Unione Federativa Araba tra le monarchie hascemite di Giordania e Iraq in funzione anti-R.A.U. (Repubblica Araba Unita), istituita mesi prima da Egitto e Siria. L'Unione si scioglierà il 2 agosto dopo il massacro della famiglia hascemita irachena da parte del generale Abdel Karim Kassem.
 ■ 1964 - l'avvocato palestinese Shugayri fonda l'O.L.P. (Organizzazione per la Liberazione della Palestina).
 ■ 1967 - giugno: scoppia la "Guerra dei sei giorni" che vede la Giordania a fianco della Siria e dell'Egitto contro Israele. La Pen-



Umm ar-Rasas. Il Presbitero della Chiesa del Leone. Una gazella. Fine VII sec. d.C. (Foto di M. Piccirilli).

isola del Sinai, le alture del Golan, la Striscia di Gaza e tutta la Cisgiordania vengono occupate dall'esercito israeliano. Il 29 novembre le Nazioni Unite votano la Risoluzione 242 (ritiro delle truppe israeliane dai territori occupati).
 ■ 1974 - ottobre: vertice dei paesi arabi a Rabat. L'O.L.P. viene riconosciuto come l'unico legittimo rappresentante del popolo pa-

lestinese". Migliorano le relazioni tra Re Hussein e gli altri paesi arabi. Re Hussein scioglie il Parlamento e avvia un processo di riforme istituzionali.
 ■ 1977 - aprile: viene istituito il National Consultative Council giordano.
 ■ 1979 - marzo: la Giordania è il primo Paese arabo a rompere le relazioni diplomatiche con l'Egitto dopo la firma degli accordi di Camp David.
 ■ 1980 - 23 settembre: scoppia il conflitto Iran-Iraq. La Giordania appoggia l'Iraq e mette a disposizione il porto di Aqaba per il regime di Bagdad.
 ■ 1980 - novembre: ad Amman si svolge il vertice dei Paesi Arabi. Il Libano e i Paesi del Fronte della Liberazione (Algeria, Libia, Siria e Yemen) non vi partecipano.
 ■ 1981 - la Giordania allenta la tensione con l'Egitto.
 ■ 1982 - vertice dei Paesi Arabi a Fez. Riavvicinamento tra Re Hussein e Arafat.
 ■ 1984 - viene ripristinato il Parlamento giordano. Elezioni parziali per eleggere i deputati deceduti dalle ultime elezioni (1967). 25 settembre: ripresa delle rela-

oni diplomatiche con l'Egitto.

■ 1985 - 11 febbraio: accordo Arafat-Hussein per ridare alancio al processo di pace in Medio Oriente.
 ■ 1987 - dicembre: inizia l'intifada nei territori occupati.
 ■ 1988 - febbraio: ad Amman viene istituito l'A.C.C. (Arab Cooperation Council) tra Giordania, Iraq, Egitto e Yemen del Nord.
 ■ 1988 - 31 luglio: Re Hussein rinuncia ai legami amministrativi e legali con la Cisgiordania, rilanciando il processo di pace in Medio Oriente. 14 novembre: Yasser Arafat ad Algeri proclama la nascita dello Stato di Palestina.
 ■ 1989 - 8 novembre: elezioni parlamentari in Giordania. Su 1.500.000 elettori solamente 520.000 votano eleggendo 80 deputati.
 ■ 1990 - maggio: vertice dei Paesi Arabi a Bagdad. Luglio: le trattative tra Iraq e Kuwait con la mediazione dell'Arabia Saudita non portano a nessuna conclusione. 2 agosto: l'Iraq invade il Kuwait, è la più grave crisi internazionale dalla fine della seconda guerra mondiale. Re Hussein mantiene la Giordania neutrale, anche se parte dell'opinione pubblica vorrebbe un coinvolgimento a fianco dell'Iraq.
 ■ 1991 - gennaio: la Giordania continua a ricevere migliaia di profughi provenienti dall'Iraq e dal Kuwait. 17 gennaio: accoppio della guerra del golfo che si concluderà dopo cinquanta giorni con il ritiro delle truppe irachene dal Kuwait.
 ■ 1991 - ottobre: inizio della conferenza di pace per il Medio Oriente a Madrid. ■

Giovanni Benenati

In occasione del 29° Congresso Nazionale della Fiavet

Amman 1-5 aprile 1992

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LA GIORDANIA ha una superficie di 90.309 chilometri quadrati e si trova al centro della regione mediorientale. Il Regno confina ad ovest con la Palestina ed Israele, a nord con la Siria, ad est con l'Iraq, a sud-est con l'Arabia Saudita, mentre a sud si affaccia sul golfo di Aqaba (Mar Rosso).

La Giordania è sempre stata un importante osservatorio per comprendere gli sviluppi della regione mediorientale, grazie alla sua strategica posizione.

Nel suoi settant'anni di storia il Regno è stato guidato da Re Abdallah e da Re Hussein, che con la loro azione politica hanno fatto di questo Stato un Paese a cui le grandi potenze internazionali e i Paesi arabi hanno sempre dedicato molta attenzione.

Gli abitanti della Giordania sono attualmente circa 4.000.000, concentrati soprattutto nella zona nord-occidentale del territorio (41% nel Governatorato di Amman, 24% in quello di Irbid, 16% a Zarqa e 7% a Salt).

La società giordana presenta al proprio interno differenze marcate sia di carattere etnico sia di carattere religioso. Il 60% circa della popolazione è di origine palestinese, arrivata nel territorio ad est del fiume Giordano dopo il 1948 (500.000 persone) e il 1967 (300.000 persone).

I giordani di origine palestinese sono ormai inseriti nel mondo del lavoro soprattutto nel settore commerciale, finanziario, bancario, sanitario, agricolo e scolastico.

Re Hussein il 31 luglio 1988 in occasione della rottura dei legami amministrativi con la Cisgiordania, ha ribadito che "...i cittadini giordani di origine palestinese del Regno Hascemita di Giordania

Introduzione alla Giordania

Terra di cultura, storia e bellezze naturali

hanno tutti i diritti e tutti i doveri che comporta il possesso della cittadinanza, come qualsiasi altro cittadino, a prescindere dalla propria origine. Essi sono parte integrante dello Stato giordano, gli appartengono, vivono nel suo territorio e partecipano alla sua vita e alle sue attività".

Una minoranza etnica presente nel paese sin dalla fine del secolo scorso è quella dei circassi (sunni) e degli sceseni (sciiti), musulmani di origine caucasica, i quali rappresentano il 2% circa della popolazione. Gli ottomani avevano consentito loro di insediarsi in alcune delle zone più fertili del Paese in prossimità dei corsi d'acqua: Amman, Wadi Seer, Jerash, Naur, Rusafa e Zarqa. I circassi hanno sempre avuto un rapporto privilegiato con la famiglia hascemita e costituiscono ancora oggi la guardia del Palazzo Reale.

Una minoranza religiosa ben integrata in Giordania è quella cristiana. Essa costituisce il 6% della popolazione (compresa quella di origine palestinese) comprendendo diverse confessioni: greci ortodossi, cattolici latini, armeni, melchiti, siriaci, protestanti. Tradizionalmente i cristiani sono sempre stati legati all'agricoltura (zona di Madaba e di Kerak), ma oggi essi sono presenti anche nel settore commerciale e della pubblica amministrazione. I rapporti tra cristiani e musulmani sono sempre stati eccellenti fin dalla creazione dello Stato.



Una tenda beduina nel meraviglioso paesaggio di Wadi Rum. (Foto di E. Borzatti).

Il resto della popolazione è di origine beduina. Le due tribù più importanti sono quella dei Bani Sakhr al centro-nord e quella degli 'Awlad al sud. I nomadi sono attualmente solamente circa 50.000 e si dedicano soprattutto alla pastorizia.

Re Hussein continua a mantenere un legame molto stretto con le tribù allo stesso modo di quanto aveva fatto suo nonno, Re Abdallah.

I due sovrani hascemiti sono riusciti nel corso della storia di questo Paese a tenere unite le varie componenti sociali e nello stesso tempo a legare i gruppi principali al prestigio e agli interessi della corona.

Il Regno Hascemita di Giordania è una monarchia costituzionale ereditaria in base alla vigente costituzione promulgata l'8 gennaio 1952. Il potere esecutivo spetta al sovrano, che lo esercita attraverso il primo ministro (da lui designato) e il Consiglio dei Ministri. Il potere legislativo viene esercitato dal Parlamento che è costituito dalla Camera dei Deputati e dal Senato.

La Camera dei Deputati viene eletta a suffragio universale (hanno diritto al voto uomini e donne che hanno compiuto 19 anni) ed è formata da 80 deputati (9 seggi spettano ai cristiani, 3 ai circassi, 6 ai beduini e 62 agli altri musulmani). I senatori, invece, sono

40 e vengono nominati dal Re (sono sempre stati scelti tra personalità politiche, tribali, militari e culturali).

Re Hussein Bin Talal è nato ad Amman il 14 novembre 1935. Ha studiato ad Amman, al Victoria College di Alessandria d'Egitto, alla Scuola di Harrow e all'Accademia militare Reale di Sandhurst in Gran Bretagna.

Figlio di Re Talal e della Regina Zein è succeduto al padre l'11 agosto 1952. Il 2 maggio 1953, al compimento del 18.º anno di età, in base al calendario musulmano, è stato incoronato Re (secondo le norme della Costituzione).

Nel 1978 Re Hussein ha sposato Elizabeth Halaby, l'attuale Regina Noor, dalla quale ha avuto quattro figli, i principi Namzeh e Hashem e le principesse Iman e Raiyah. Nata il 23 agosto 1951, la Regina Noor ha studiato all'Università di Princeton negli Stati Uniti, conseguendo la laurea in Architettura. Successivamente ha lavorato in Australia, Iran e Giordania, dove diventò direttrice del Design Centre della Compagnia Aerea giordana, che allora si chiamava Alia, mentre oggi è chiamata Royal Jordanian.

Dopo essersi sposata con Re Hussein, la Regina Noor si è occupata sempre con impegno di numerose attività sociali. Dagli inizi degli anni ottanta la "Queen Noor Foundation" coordina numerose attività in vari campi, per migliorare soprattutto la condizione della donna in Giordania. La Regina Noor ha inoltre istituito il Festival di Jerash che ogni anno si svolge nella città greco-romana e dove partecipano gruppi artistici e folkloristici arabi e internazionali.

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By Cristina Malak
Special to The Star

Nievo Scamolla

Italian tourists demand more flights to Jordan

AFTER A recession that was largely due to the Gulf crisis, Jordan's tourist industry has recently changed for the better and is once again flourishing. Recent statistics that document the numbers of foreign visitors to the kingdom now suggest that Italian guests represent the majority. So high is the demand that the Italian national airline, Alitalia, are now operating two flights weekly to Jordan instead of one.

"Alitalia will consider scheduling extra flights for the summer if the demand is there," said Mr Nievo Scamolla, general manager of the Alitalia branch in Amman. The airline currently have flights from Rome on Mondays and Saturdays, leaving the kingdom on Tuesdays and Sundays. Alitalia aircraft servicing Jordao are the Airbus 300 and the MD 80.

Founded in 1947, Alitalia is one of the world's oldest airlines and today flies to 116 destinations worldwide with 4,332 flights operating weekly. Its 1992 slogan "challenge of growth" illustrates its policy of global expansion and its aim of participating in every market. It seeks to augment its capacity on existing lines as well as to respond to the requirements of new destinations and new services. For example, one of Alitalia's 1992 Middle East projects is the reopening of the Kuwait city line, to be added to its seven other existing regional destinations of Dubai, Jeddah, Amman, Damascus, Beirut, Tehran and Lamaca.

Before the Gulf crisis, Italian tourism in Jordan was estimated to have a potential annual growth of 25 percent, and it was forecast that a figure of about 45,000 people



Mr Scamolla during a recent Alitalia activity

would be travelling between the two countries. Even during the crisis, touristic activities were still being encouraged by the Jordanian authorities and experts anticipated positive developments for the future.

According to Mr Scamolla, Jordan is now a major point of reference for Italian tourists. "We do not expect to reach the same level as in 1990, but if this trend continues, I am optimistic that within a couple of years we can reach the figures we expected in 1990," he said.

Jordan has a few fundamental elements that make Italian visitors feel at home in a land that is in many ways similar to their

own — traditional Jordanian hospitality, historical and archaeological sites and many cultural similarities.

Also, since touristic exchange started between the two countries about 10 years ago, it has been discovered that Jordan has a great more to offer than just Petra and Jerash, as was previously thought. Thanks to the efforts of several archaeological missions working under the supervision of the Jordanian authorities, many new archaeological and historical sites have been made available to visitors. What is more, the geographical position of Jordan at the heart of the Middle East makes it easy for travellers to

come and go to neighboring countries.

The major movement of Italian visitors originates from the northern areas of Italy, mainly from Lombardia and Veneto. "But," said Mr Scamolla, "all regions in Italy send tourists and visitors." Italian guests arrive all year around, but mostly in the peak periods which are linked with vacations, such as Christmas and New Year, Easter and summer-time.

Since 1984, Jordan has been promoted in Italy through various channels, such as cultural and folkloric exhibitions in Rome, television, media and tourist brochures. Documentary programs have been made about the country and touristic brochures offer plenty more than mere price lists and accommodation guides. These brochures are distributed to all travel agencies, and have been thoroughly compiled with as much information possible for the visitor.

Efforts on the Jordanian side have, among other things, resulted in the construction of a number of new hotels in Agaba and Petra, in anticipation of a huge influx of visitors. "If peace is maintained in this area, Jordan will surely become one of the region's major touristic countries," said Mr Scamolla, quoting the Italian saying "Passa Parola," meaning "Spread the word!"



Mr Balqez

A message from Royal Jordanian President & CEO

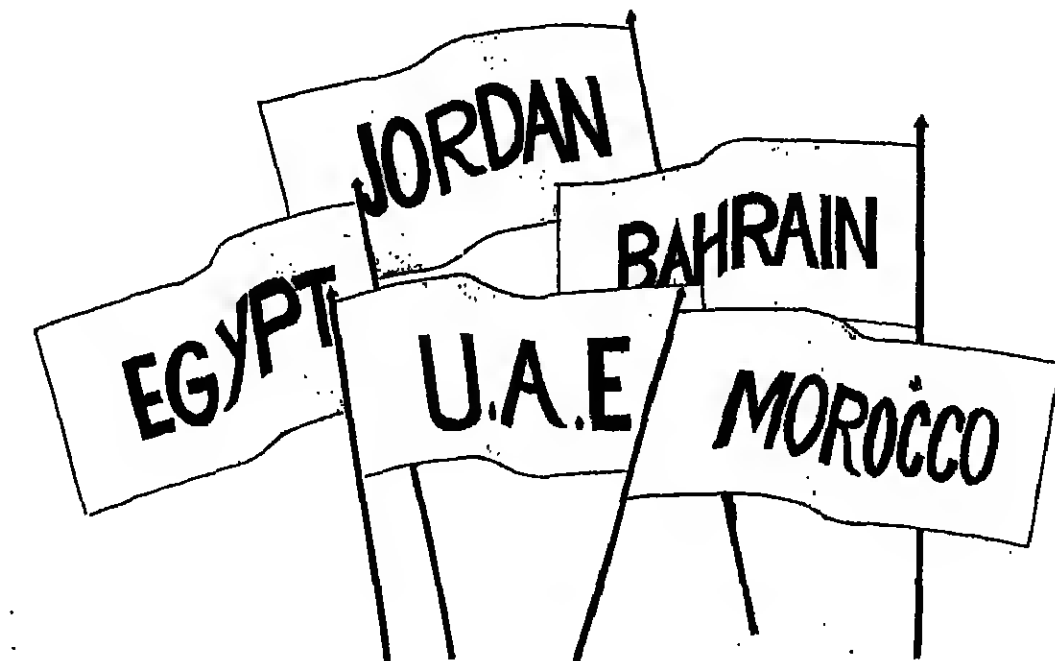
Dear Elaveet members

IT IS an honour as well as a privilege for me to welcome you on behalf of Royal Jordanian to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Your presence today amongst us, is a true example of the close and amiable relationship that has existed between our two people.

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Continued on page 12

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Curative effects of the Dead Sea and related cosmetics

By Salwa Sukhon
Special to The Star

*From the north direction it has rained
From the west direction the water comes in streams.
In front of the streams of water down toward the east, lightnings come down and strike the earth.
All of us receive life.*

Keres Acoma Pueblo, 1957

ONE OF the many prides of Jordan is the Dead Sea, situated at the mouth of the River Jordan and some 40 kilometers from Amman. A unique spot on the globe, with a total area of about 360 square miles (930 sq km), this lake, though called "dead", has been found to be completely otherwise. In his book *From Our History* (1963), author Dr Mahmoud Abedi calls it "The Living Sea", and affirms that its riches are enough to make the country a paradise. The reason is that it is a natural reservoir, holding the maximum possible of dissolved solids such as potassium, calcium, bromine, bromide, quartz, magnesium, carbonate, silicate, sodium, and sulphate.

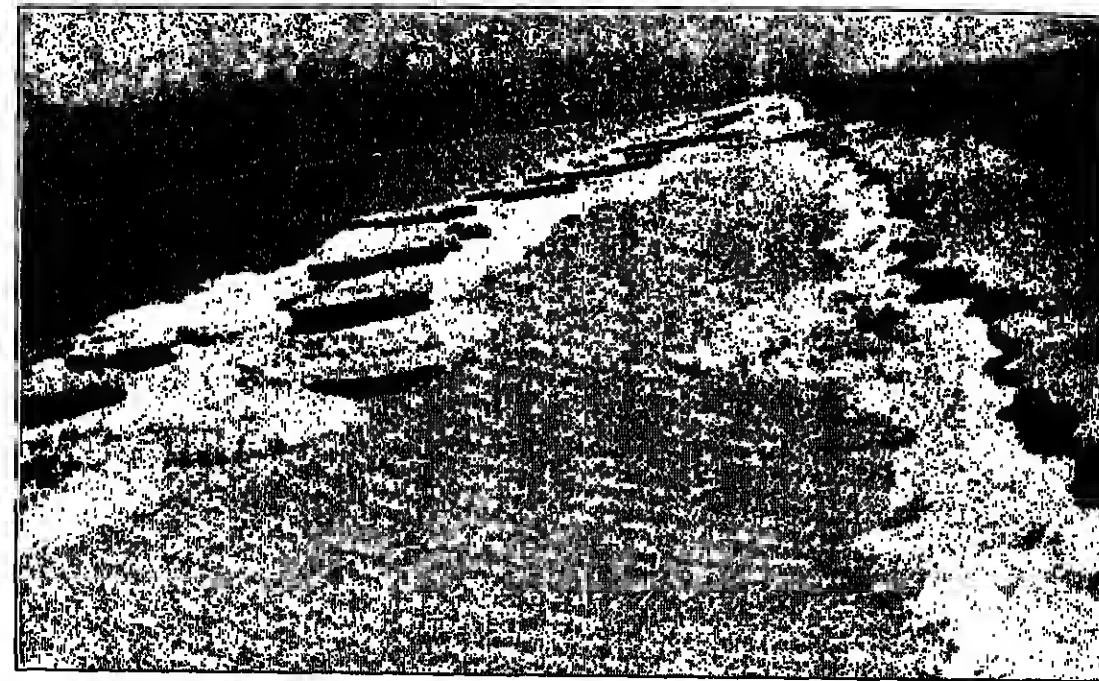
According to Dr Umaish, who recently lectured on the curative effects of the

Dead Sea to a delegation of dermatologists from the Nordic Psoriasis Association, the Dead Sea area is favored with an exceptional climate. This is caused by the low elevation in this deep basin and the low atmospheric humidity, which, along with high atmospheric pressure, produces a six to ten percent increase in oxygen.

The area enjoys 335 sunny days a year, and has an atmospheric layer which filters out the majority of harmful UVB sun-rays and allows the penetration of curative UVA sunrays. Its intact ozone layer allows prolonged and safe exposure to the sun, with tanning and minimal sunburn.

This lake is unique. It is the lowest-lying sheet of water in the world, with a surface that lies almost 1300 feet (369 metres) below sea level, occupying 53 miles of the deepest part of the Great Rift valley. Due to a lack of outlets and a high evaporation rate, the sea has slowly shrunk, leaving extensive beds of salt, gypsum, and marl.

This process thus formed the Lisan, or "Tongue" peninsula, where one is dazzled by the breath-taking scene of crystallized minerals, shaped like mushrooms, and glistening in



Mushroom-shaped crystallized minerals in Lisan area

the sun like diamonds. It is from these that the precious ingredients of Dead Sea cosmetics are extracted, with the exception of the mud on the sea bed.

Such a humble introduction does not give full credit to the Dead Sea as a historic, holy, and rich medical natural reservoir. Its curative effects, whether physical or psychological, cannot be emphasized enough. Patients

with skin problems such as psoriasis, acne and eczema can be treated in charming surroundings; a landscape that provides a haven of natural psychological therapy, especially for patients with stress-related skin complaints.

Due to the valuable minerals in the Dead Sea, several Jordanian companies have emerged, marketing a wide range of Dead

Sea products. According to Mr Osama Qataishat, a pharmacist and general manager of Universal Salts Ltd. (C-Sal), his company's products provide a chance for people who cannot come to the Dead Sea "to indulge in the warmth of nature in the privacy and comfort of their own homes."

Continued on page 12



VISA MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND

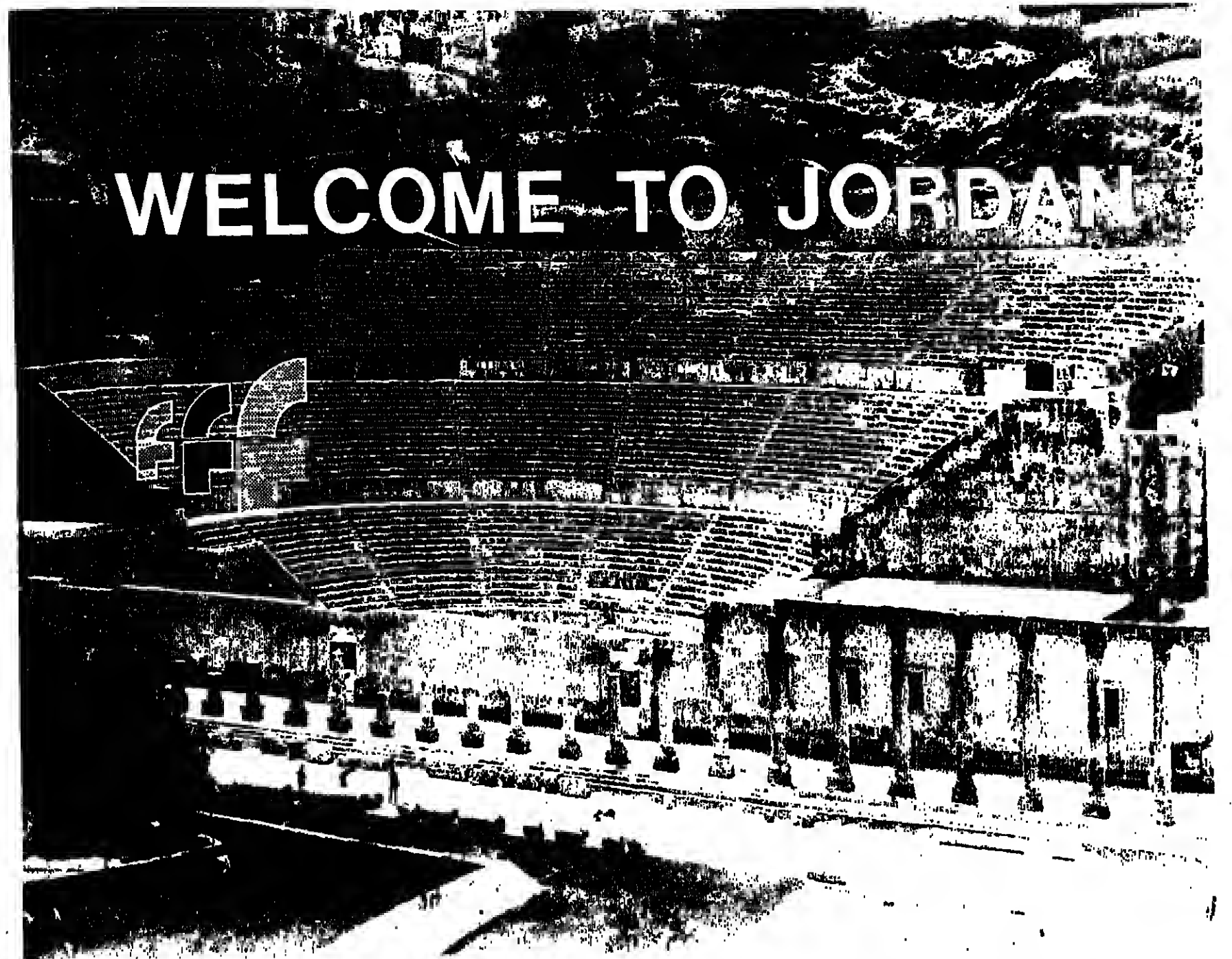
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New industries now commercialize Dead Sea salts

Curative effects of the Dead Sea and related cosmetics

Continued from page 10

As for the Lisan Mineral Dead Sea Products Company, they confirm that both Cleopatra and the Queen of Sheba frequented the curative Dead Sea shores to take advantage of its beneficial effects. They also claim that everyone can benefit from their range of conditioning hair shampoos, combining legendary Dead Sea minerals with natural oils to revitalize the hair. Dead Sea bath salts and Dead Sea facial mud masks and scrubs, all produced from the Lisan peninsula area.

Mr Qutaishat said of C-Sal that "in our range of products we tend to be creative and exclusive, as we are the only company in the country that produces C-sal, which is made of 100 percent pure olive oil and Dead Sea salts. C-sal cleanses the skin and keeps it silky." C-Sal also produces bath salts with menthol, especially processed for patients who suffer from arthritis, backache or febrile. Menthol bath salts also allow for total relaxation, as menthol increases the potency of the product by three to four times. Other C-sal products include ordinary Dead Sea bath salts and facial mud masks. "We are adamant on producing more products and our research never stops," Mr Qutaishat added.

Dr Umash described the reason behind the relaxing effects of Dead Sea salts and minerals by saying that the specific high density of the water caused by the salts allows the body to float. This helps in physiotherapy exercises and exerts a relaxing effect upon muscles and stiff joints. Furthermore, the high concentration of bromide gives a relaxing and sedative effect, along with magnesium which produces an anti-allergic effect.

As for the black mud extracted from the dead sea bed, Dr Umash said it absorbs both salts and minerals and is rich in magnesium. This in turn attracts sun-rays due to its color, and has a

mask effect due to its components of silicates which produce a tightening effect on the skin; thus firming it and keeping its moisture.

Miss Manal Shamali, a chemical engineer and production manager at C-sal said, "Salts contained in mud masks possess an absorbent power which has a cleansing effect while attracting and retaining moisture. This causes long lasting hydration of the skin. Minerals also assist in stimulating and strengthening the skin's natural repair process by nourishing and softening it. This helps it keep fresh and healthy. Usually glycerol is included in the composition with herbal extracts and honey to maintain a soft, pure skin."

The Dead Sea is one of the few remaining places on earth that is pollution-free. This makes it a medical tourist attraction, evident by the materialization of the German medical center at the site, which treats patients from all over the world. The success of Dead Sea products is also apparent by the cases of tourists and businessmen, filled with Dead Sea bath salts and mud containers. Idyllic scenes show tourists and patients sun-bathing on the shores, or floating in relaxation in its waters with a magazine in hand. Other scenes show women covered from tip to toe in its mud, hoping to keep their skins firm and elastic and their faces wrinkle-free.

Mr Qutaishat confirmed the popularity of Dead Sea products by exports to the USA, Germany, Switzerland, and other European countries. He also mentioned his company's negotiations with a number of European firms who wish to be exclusive agents. Such demand for Dead Sea products confirms Dr Abedi's description of the region as "The Living Sea" as opposed to the "Dead" Sea, proving, in fact, that it is a sea where all of us receive life.

A message from Royal Jordanian President & CEO

Continued from page 8

Jordan you shall witness a glorious heritage that has continuously inhabited this part of the world since the dawn of time. Jordan is rich in archaeological sites, so much so that it is said one can hardly dig a space into the ground without unearthing history.

Jordan has been blessed by being located in the cradle of civilization and on the crossroads of ancient cultures; however, it is also considered a landlocked country. Due to this geographical limitation, Jordan had to depend to a great extent on a certain mode of transportation, and that is air transportation. Therefore, when his Majesty King Hussein, wanted the kingdom to have its own na-

tional carrier back in 1963, he didn't want it to merely serve as a mode of transportation, but rather as a vital communication link between Jordan and the rest of the world.

Today Royal Jordanian is still following this path of ideology and continues to have a vital role in developing various related industries. This namely includes the development of the tourism industry which strengthens the possibility of people flow and creates an opportunity for cultural exchange. In retrospect, this is definitely witnessed at the commencement of operations to each of the various cities around the world.

Twenty seven years ago, the first ever holy land air route connecting Jerusalem with Rome was inaugurated. Rome

was chosen to be the first European city to be served by Royal Jordanian due to strong historical and religious ties.

Today the route remains to be a true example of the close cultural ties that has existed between our peoples for centuries, with over 20,000 Italian tourists flocking into Jordan every year this relationship shall continue to flourish with the exchange of thoughts. Your presence today in Jordan will only strengthen these ties and work on the establishment of even stronger bonds.

Thank you for choosing Jordan as a venue for your congress, wishing you all the success in your conference and a very pleasant stay in our country Jordan.

Mahmoud Jamal Bakjer
President and C.E.O.



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After freedom now what?

A bad start for a new age

By ALEXANDER PUMPIANSKI
in Moscow, Russia

ALEXANDER VAMPILOV, a Soviet playwright whose works were prophetic and fate tragic (he drowned while swimming in Lake Baikal, near his home), once wrote a play entitled *A Bitter Awakening*. A sad parable of life in the Soviet Union, the action takes place in a police station full of drunks brought in off the streets. The action provides a perfect setting for the men and women to reflect on how their lives became so tragic when things seemed to be so good not long ago.

The former Soviet Union is like a giant stage for *A Bitter Awakening*. Like the play's characters, millions are quarrelling with each other, trying to understand what has happened to them. Yesterday's euphoria has vanished without a trace.

"Yesterday" refers to virtually every day since 1985—when the obscure but inspiring concept of perestroika first illuminated our lives—including the one-day climax of August 21, 1991, when pro-democracy forces crushed a brazen hardliners' coup. On that day, we celebrated the confirmation of a simple truth: liberty is invincible and people committed to freedom are stronger than any tyrant, any army or any secret police.

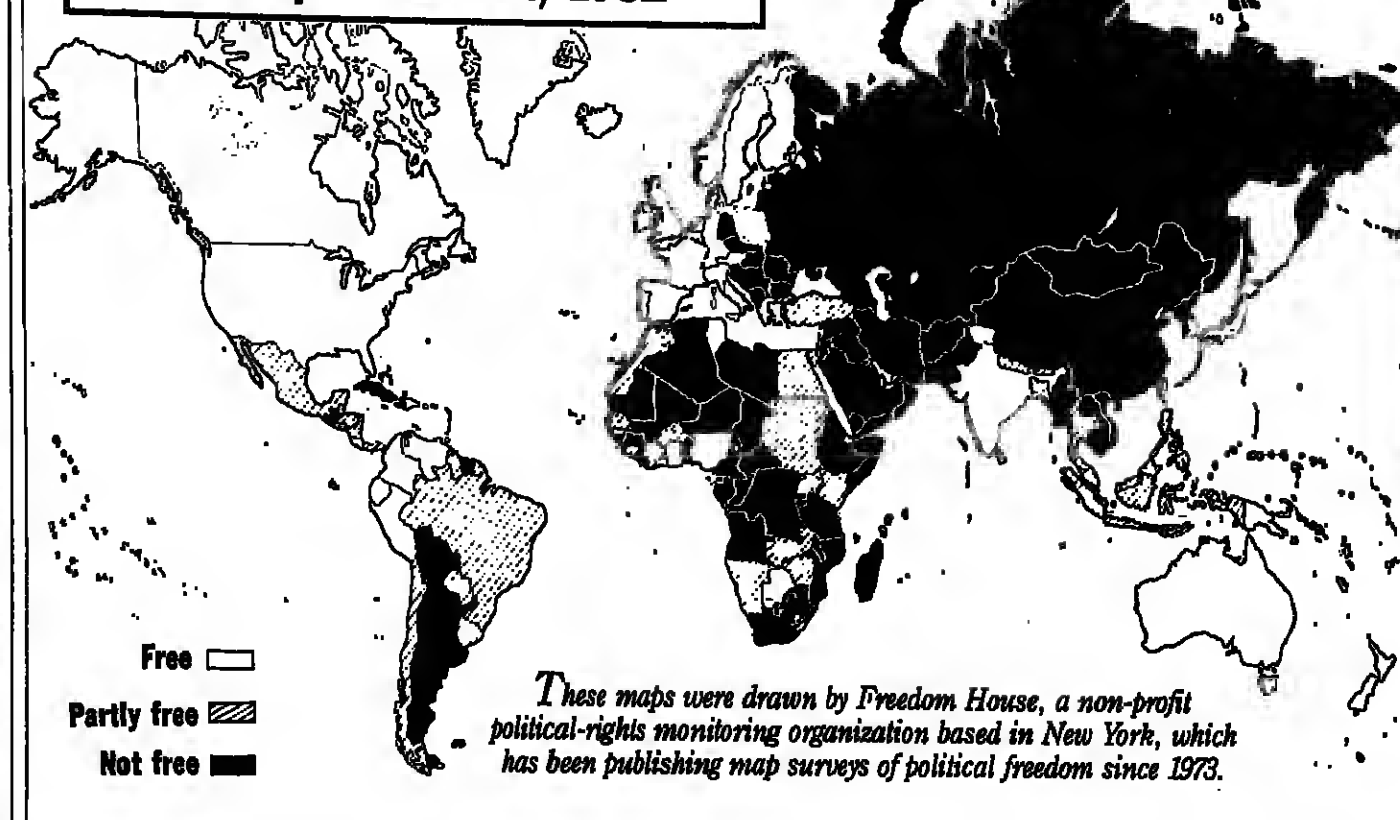
Another revolution occurred in this country of revolutions, but this time it was democratic and humane: communism collapsed and the Communist Party that ruled for 70 years disappeared. The resistance to democratic reforms was overwhelmed and it looked as though everyone's dream would soon come true: peoples of the Soviet empire would be free; the individual would enjoy human rights; society would be reorganized in a civilized socioeconomic manner respectful of free enterprise and private ownership; and the consumer would at last experience the abundance of goods offered by the free market. The path to real reform was finally clear.

But suddenly something went awry in this master plan and an avalanche started. Boris Yeltsin of Russia, Leonid Kravchuk of the Ukraine, and Shushkevich of Belarus held a meeting at a secluded dacha in the heart of the Byelovezhskaya Forest, famous for its mighty bison and equally mighty vodka, to announce the creation of a new community. They were in such a hurry to bury the Soviet Union that they informed US President George

Alexander Pumpianski is associate editor for Russia and editor of *Novoye Vremia*.

GLOBAL SHAKE-UP

The map of freedom, 1982



Bual about their intentions even before Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The leaders accomplished this goal shortly after the Belarus meeting when at the end of December the Kazakhstan capital Alma-Ata hosted 11 leaders representing all Soviet republics except the Baltic states and Georgia. They pronounced the Soviet Union dead and declared the existence of 15 independent states, 11 of which subsequently agreed to form a loosely-knit Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The Soviet president was not invited to Alma-Ata, signaling that there was no longer a place in the Kremlin for him. It was clear then that none of the new leaders cared to listen to what Gorbachev had to say, except while he was delivering his resignation speech.

But weren't Russia's democrats, headed by the heroic Yeltsin, just last August fighting to reinstate Gorbachev as the only legitimate leader of the Soviet republic? When the reactionary putschists locked away Gorbachev in his Crimean dacha, stripping him of his top-secret communication lines and the briefcase with nuclear attack codes, it was the democrats who crushed them and sent them to prison in Moscow—only to later take the country away from the legitimate president and divide it into 11 pieces.

The means by which the new power said good-bye to Gorbachev was not an exercise in good manners, to say the least. Yeltsin's eagerness to move into Gorbachev's offices in the Kremlin and in the CPSU Central Committee headquarters revealed that on top of recent cataclysms, a personal vendetta was at play as well.

The USSR may be dead. Born in its place, however, are 15 little Soviet Unions, not 15 democracies. The new republics have different regimes and are each looking in different directions for guidance: the Baltics are looking to the West; the Central Asian states are look-

ing to Turkey, Iran and Pakistan and are fervently embracing Islam. In Russia and the now democratic Ukraine, it is considered good taste to be anticommunist.

But despite Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's best attempts, the Ukrainians are having trouble "overlooking" his brilliant career as head of the propaganda department of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, Central Committee secretary for ideology, and second secretary of the UCP Central Committee.

In Uzbekistan, the Communist Party was officially cleared of all charges, including criminal ones. Many government and party leaders, convicted on bribery charges in the early days of perestroika when a gigantic network of corruption was exposed there, have now been acquitted.

In all cases, nationalism is the name of the game. As a reaction to the old imperial pressure and as a manifestation of national awareness, it is natural and understandable. One is worried, though, about the enthusiasm displayed by the new nationalists, who only yesterday were internationalists and former party apparatchiks.

The attitude toward ethnic minorities and "aliens" is depressing. Karabakh has already become a symbol of tragedy considering the plight of its Armenian population; the massacres in Sumgait and Baku and the total eradication of Armenians from Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis from Armenia are all deplorable. There is no longer a Big Brother in what the old ideologues used to call "the glorious family of the Soviet peoples."

Lithuania had been courageously fighting against the Center's dominance, but it is refusing autonomy to its Polish citizens who make up a majority of the population in two regions. Across the Baltics, Russian-speaking people are second-rate citizens. There are a hundred ways to make them understand that they are not welcome.

Perestroika may have put an end to the Cold War, but the future of the former Soviet Union's huge army has never been addressed, and now it is being divided among the republics. Presidents of the newly independent states rush to declare themselves commanders-in-chief and demand that troops stationed in their republics swear allegiance to them.

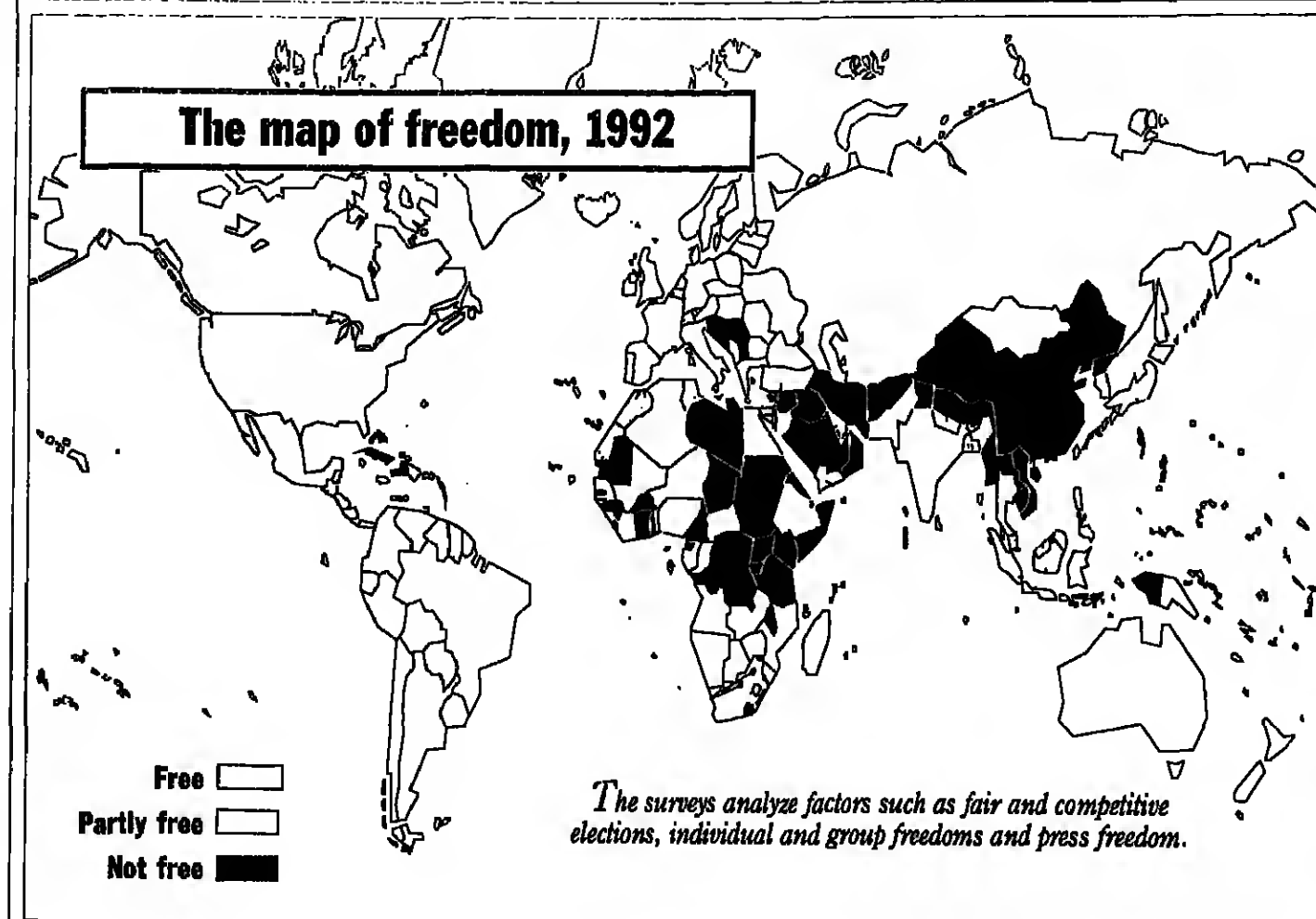
Soviet embassies abroad are being divided, too, which is a nearly impossible task. How does one divide the embassy in Washington or Lusska, for example, into 15 parts and then decide what portion Turkmenia should receive if Turkmenia contributed just two percent of the former Soviet Union's total Gross National Product? None of the new leaders want to share the common foreign debt, but each new leader claims his portion of property and prestige.

Meanwhile, ordinary citizens have something more basic to worry about—survival.

Prices were set free on January 2. Since then, the price of bread has gone from 30 to 40 kopecks per loaf to two or three rubles. Vodka used to be 10 rubles; it now costs five times that. Inexpensive brands of sausage were about eight rubles; now they are 80. Taxis are decorated with stickers informing passengers that the amount shown on the meter must be multiplied by 10 during the day, and by 15 at night. On New Year's Eve, Yeltsin declared a 90 percent wage hike for all state employees, yet some food prices increased by 600 to 1,000 percent. The worst news is that shops remain empty.

The dawn of democracy is cloudy and its landscape gloomy. Does this mean that all efforts have been in vain? Of course not. We will have to reject the illusion of quick recovery. What matters is not the euphoria of freedom we experienced last year but rather the legacy of our 70-year history, which has proved harder to overcome than we had anticipated.

GLOBAL SHAKE-UP



Evolution upsets empires

From nationalism to supranationalism

BY TARZIE VITTACHI
in Colombo, Sri Lanka

THERE IS A pattern to the shockwaves that have circled the globe: the breakup of empires reveals the burning desire for independence.

Less than 100 years ago the world was composed of a mass of disparate principalities. Germany was not Germany until Bismarck hammered the principalities into a national state. There was no Italy until Cavour turned it into a national state. India was a subcontinent in which several hundred groups distinguished by language, religion or ethnic origins lived, until the British put up their steel umbrella over them and called it The Raj.

In Africa, there were a few large cultural and historical entities like Ethiopia, but the national state as a universal phenomenon is more recent. When the British, French, Belgians and Portuguese liquidated their empires, the black and brown inheritors insisted on the imperial lands being passed on to them intact.

But evolution is not linear. It crests diversities out of unities and unities out of diversities. This process was referred to in South Asian mythology as Brahma breathing out and Brahma breathing in: evolution and devolution. New nationalities are being formed out of the breakup of empires, trying to establish their identities while they are simultaneously confronted by outbreaks of subnationalism. At the same time, there is a trend throughout the world favoring supranational federations.

Evolution is not a sentimental affair.

The changes it brings about are often painful. But we are given a choice: we can cooperate with the natural process, even nudge it along and adapt; or we can resist it and pay the price in blood and destruction.

The evolutionary process is the "cause" of the breakup of the Soviet Union. Much the same process is taking place in India although no Indian wants to look at it boldly. Jawaharlal Nehru and his associates thought of themselves as the "natural" heirs of the British Raj and proceeded with their centralized economic planning and their imperial rule from Delhi. It was a manufactured monolith.

A looser confederation formed out of the seven states now comprising SARC (the Organization for South Asian Cooperation: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, the Maldives and Sri Lanka) has been in the cards for 25 years. But the subcontinental neighbors must be comfortable in their interdependence before they can be comfortably interdependent. It will take a while before these subnationalisms realize that to be politically and economically viable they will have to find new confederal relationships.

That is also the process that has been going on in Western Europe over the past 30 years. Jacques Delors is absolutely right: the movement toward a European union with a common currency and a supranational parliament is irreversible.

There is no need to fear nationalism as a regressive force in Eastern Europe.

It is not nationalism that is breaking out in a rash of violence but cultural subnationalism.

One clear example of this is the concern for language. Human beings are distinguished from all other animals as language makers and are fearful of their languages being buried under the weight of a majority language, as the Tamils of Sri Lanka and the French-speaking people of Quebec have shown. Language is not just a currency to communicate messages like "pass the butter" or "two beers please." It is the repository of values, the idiom of dreams where the soul lives. This is the kind of identity value that is behind the subnationalist movements which have appeared at the breakup of the national phase of the evolution of political systems.

Overall, there is another lesson to be learned from past and current history. The national state concept is new, as we have noted, but it dies hard. Why? Who keeps it alive? Now, in its regressive phase, it does not benefit the people. Most of the pervasive global problems of our time can be traced to the existence of the national state well beyond its progressive lifespan: environmental degradation; population pressure; the rise of violent racism; the widening gap between rich and poor nations; the stumbling, bumbling futility of the United Nations' development programs—all this and more.

Who benefits from the longevity of the national state? It is the small elites of political and economic power who have a vested interest in its continuance. They struggle for power in their own societies to enrich themselves. But evolution, the natural drive of change, what the Buddhists call the Great Life Force, is omnipotent, omnipresent and irreversible. If we are wise enough to adapt to its demands, we may still undo the terrible things that have been done to this planet. And our race and the other beings on Earth may survive.

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matters of global concern.

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GLOBAL SHAKE-UP

Cooperation's new agenda

Despite troubling tremors, coexistence rules the day

BY BHASKAR MENON
in New York, USA

THE END OF the Cold War and the advance of democracy around the world have given new strength to the historic trend toward international cooperation. For example:

- World leaders will gather in Brazil in June for the Earth Summit, which will raise international cooperation to new peaks concerning environmental protection and economic development;
- The Uruguay Round of negotiations to improve the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will open to an unprecedented degree opportunities for international trade if the question of agricultural subsidies can be resolved;
- Some countries have agreed to reveal sensitive national security information so that the United Nations can begin this year to accumulate an official register of trade in conventional weapons;

Bhaskar Menon is the editor of *International Documents Review*, a weekly newsletter on the UN.

• The UN General Assembly has approved a plan under which the UN will gather social and political information from inside countries to get early warning of impending emergencies and take preventive action.

A century ago there were only a handful of international organizations, and most of them were designed to ensure common technical standards in member countries on weights and measures and application of new technologies such as railways, steamships, and Samuel Morse's telegraph. Today, there are over 3,000 organizations with two or more member countries and they deal with everything from arid-land research to zookeeping.

Only a few decades ago many countries would have rejected as too intrusive the modern levels of cooperation. Even today, many developing countries fear cooperation involves loss of sovereignty to richer and more powerful states. But there is a general acknowledgement that there is an unstoppable trend toward international responsibility in areas once considered entirely national affairs.

If the first generation of international



Eleanor Roosevelt in 1949: the dream is closer to reality.

organizations was technical, the second generation was created to seek cooperative answers to new problems, such as unbridled competition among European countries and the rising demands of the industrial working class. Typical of these were the League of Nations and the International Labor Organization, both of which carried cooperation far beyond anything previously attempted. The League failed because countries negotiated on political issues but acted with abandon in the struggle for economic power, leading to the Great Depression, mass misery, the rise of fascism and World War II.

The third generation of cooperative organizations—the UN and its specialized agencies—grew out of that experience. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were created to ensure broad economic cooperation. The GATT aimed at lowering national barriers to trade. The UN itself focused on securing peace and on monitoring world trends, from human rights to population growth. While the Cold War limited security action, international cooperation continued in other areas.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights set the first international standards. The moral force of this declaration was then translated into conventions requiring countries which signed to incorporate the standards into their legal systems. Far more than expected, these standards percolated through even despotic regimes. The law on outer space and the law of the seas were major advances.

With the lifting of restraints imposed by the Cold War, countries are taking stock of new needs for cooperative action and the UN is making major adjustments—in some areas, even reconceptualizing its role. There are now more than 50 UN special agencies and programs, and they are reforming themselves as never before, both to cure rampant bureaucracy and to respond to growing demands for cooperative action—for example, more coherent systems to prevent crime and fight poverty.

But although the world may be moving inexorably in the direction of interdependence, the path is strewn with hurdles.

The list of those asserting separate identities within national borders is long: the African Americans in the US, the Irish Catholics in Britain, the native Indians in Canada, the Basques in Spain, the Kurds in Iraq, the Sindhis in Pakistan, the Kashmiris in India, the Tibetans in China, the Tamils in Sri Lanka, and so on.

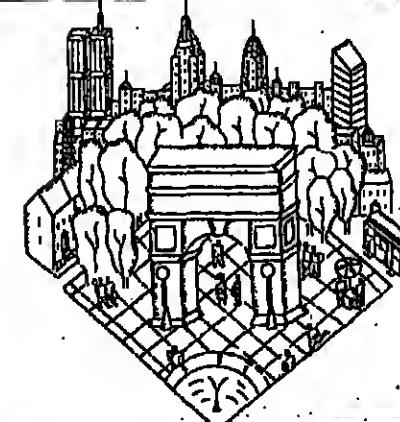
When expressed violently, these concepts can destroy national societies and threaten international peace and security, as is the case now in parts of Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. At some future point, such assertiveness might soften to permit international cooperation, but their immediate effect is to throw a monkey wrench into the works.

A less noticed factor, but one that is perhaps more potent, is the failure of countries and other groups to confront the widening gap between rich and poor nations. For instance, the fact that major developed countries are owed \$1.3 trillion by developing countries is as much a disability of the lending countries as it is of the debtors. Yet, there has been no real effort to solve the problem because it gives affluent countries "leverage."

The agricultural subsidies dispute which is now stalling the current Uruguay Round of trade talks is, at its most basic level, a question of national security. Many countries do not want to be dependent on others for their food. So they provide artificial economic incentives to keep their farmers in business, creating a host of economic inefficiencies and, finally, a generally higher level of national insecurity.

A third area in which statecraft lags behind current international realities is the use of military power. The conflicts surrounding the Persian Gulf give a variety of examples of the misuse of military power. The tug-of-war over the remnants of the former Soviet Red Army and its piecemeal division by newly formed nations is also unsettling. The states involved have been motivated by outdated concepts of self-interest. If that is allowed to continue, there is every danger that the world could lurch into another disastrous period of tension and war.

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NYU
SUMMER

Chic kids promote local designs for charity

By Kate Daniels
Star Staff Writer

IS YOUR child a dedicated follower of fashion? If so, then the place to be seen will be the Amman Marriott Hotel this April, for a special children's fashion show. Originally scheduled for earlier in the year but cancelled due to the weather conditions, the fashion show will get the royal mark of approval under the patronage of HRH Princess Taghrid Mohammad.

Besides being a chance to catch up on the spring season's styles, the show will serve as a fund-raising event, and Marriott general manager Mr. Francis Keenan has pledged that all proceeds will go towards children's libraries on Jabal Bani Hamida.

Around 60 kids between the ages of three and 14 will be taking to the catwalk, modelling the collections of three prominent local designers: Lina-Lana Burgan, Zein Khasawneh and Hana Sadiq Beraudo.

Miss Lina Mouasher, coordinator of the event, explained the reasons for selecting these designers: "We specifically wanted local talent. We, as Jordanians, have a lot of creative people who do some really marvelous work."

The show will be opened with Lina-Lana's bathwear collection, comprising bathrobes, slippers, nightwear and washbags. Her garments have been described as "stepping into the rainbow of tradition", combining conventional cotton towelling and Eastern striped *Saya* fabric.

Next up will be the Eastern designs of Hana Beraudo, who aims to "let Jordanian children enjoy their heritage" with her collection of baggy linen trousers, short jackets and silver accessories. "Hana concentrates mostly on plain colors," said Miss Mouasher, "yet can bring plain material to life with her beautiful embellishments."

The closing collection will be the work of Zein Khasawneh, a long established children's designer who incorporates diverse materials and exotic oriental patterns into her garments. Her collection will include traditional items such as embroidered signature jackets along with modern designs. "By blending Eastern elegance with Western ease, we hope to show that our heritage and designs can be both attractive and practical for children," said Miss Mouasher.

All stage decorations for the show will be designed by the Bani Hamida women themselves, and will unveil a number of their exciting new rug designs. "It's time to encourage and promote local products," said Miss Mouasher. "We export these designs, which is proof of their good quality. Why should we assume that goods from outside are better?"

She is enthusiastic that the show, which has been fully choreographed to a musical backing, will be sensational. "The overall blend of the music, the stage design and the clothing itself will present an exquisite picture of our children in the future," she said, adding, "Support local designers. Help bring traditional designs back to life."

The fashion show will be held at the Amman Marriott Hotel on 11 April at five p.m. Tickets JD 10 — all proceeds to children of Bani Hamida. For further info, call Marriott on 660100.

Creature feature



Legless skink

(*Acontias species*)

Home: Sandy areas of South Africa, Madagascar.

Habits: Lizard eats mainly insects, some other small invertebrates and frogs. Females bear live young in litters of three or four. Spend most of their lives in underground burrows. Hard, scaly bodies let them move easily through the earth. Eyes and ears are protected by scales, and lower eyelids have transparent "windows" that let the skinks see without getting soil in their eyes while burrowing.

Claim to fame: Although they look like snakes, legless skinks belong to one of the largest lizard families.

SOURCE: Derek Price Press, "Mammals Illustrated Animal Encyclopedia." Research by NANCY ROSE PLANKIN.

TOP POP SINGLES

1. Can't Stop This Thing We Started, Bryan Adams, A&M
2. Cream, Prince and the New Power Generation, Warner Bros.
3. Real Real Real, Jesus Jones, S&W
4. Romantic, Karyn White, Warner Bros.
5. What a Man Loves a Woman, Michael Bolton, Columbia
6. O.P.P., Naughty By Nature, Tommy Boy
7. Emotions, Mariah Carey, Columbia
8. It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday, Boyz II Men, Tommy Boy
9. Do Anything, Natural Selection, East West
10. Set the Night to Music, Roberta Flack/Musi Priest, Atlantic

TOP POP ALBUMS

1. Dangerous, Michael Jackson, Epic
2. Achtung Baby, U2, Island
3. Too Legit to Quit, Hammer, Capitol
4. Unforgettable, Natalie Cole, Elektra
5. Time, Love and Tenderness, Michael Bolton, Columbia
6. Cooleyhighharmony, Boyz II Men, Motown
7. Nevermind, Nirvana, Geffen
8. Metallica, Metallica, Elektra
9. Use Your Illusion II, Guns N' Roses, Geffen
10. We Can't Dance, Genesis, Atlantic

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Terminator 2: Judgment Day, A. Schwarzenegger, Linds, Home Video (R-1991)
2. Naked Gun 2½: The Smell of Fear, Leslie Nielsen, Prindle, Paramount Home Video (PG-13-1991)
3. Backdraft, Kurt Russell, Robert De Niro, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1991)
4. The Silence of the Lambs, Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Orion Home Video (R-1991)
5. City Slickers, Billy Crystal, Daniel Stern, Columbia TriStar Home Video (PG-13-1991)
6. FX2: The Deadly Deception, Bryan Brown, Brian Dennehy, Orion Home Video (PG-13-1991)

VIDEOVIEW

By Juy Bobbin

(Ratings for each film begin with an "asterisk" rating — one meaning "poor," four meaning "excellent" — followed by the Motion Picture Association of America rating, and then by a family-viewing guide, the key for which appears below.)

STARTING THIS WEEK: "DOUBLE IMPACT" (Columbia/TriStar, \$92.86). For those who just can't get enough of action star Jean-Claude Van Damme, he's in evidence twice as much in this action saga, casting him as identical twins drawn back together after years of separation to avenge the slayings of their parents. It's fun to watch the game as Van Damme tries to pull off the nuances of the two different personalities. ** (R: AS, P, V)

"PURE LUCK" (MCA/Universal, \$91.95): Basically a parody of the "Lethal Weapon" formula of mismatched crimefighters on a tricky case, this mildly amusing comedy-adventure just happens to cast "Weapon" Danny Glover as an experienced detective reluctantly teamed with a total klutz (the ever-humorous Martin Short) in the search for a kidnapped heiress ("L.A. Law's" Sheila Kelley). ** (PG: AS, P, V)

"IRON MAZE" (Academy, \$89.95): Co-produced by ever-controversial filmmaker Oliver ("JFK") Stone, this melodramatic Japanese and American co-production — arriving on video an extremely short time after its theatrical run — casts Jeff ("Body Parts") Fahey as a man who might pay very dearly for his passionate involvement with a married woman (Bridget Fonda) on foreign shores. ** (R: AS, P, V)

HELD OVER: "HOT SHOTS" (Fox, \$94.98): One of last year's top hits, this comedy from director Jim Abrahams — part of the "Naked Gun"/"Airplane!" team — regales in sending up military movies of the past, especially "Top Gun." Charlie Sheen plays an ace pilot involved in a top-secret mission, with Lloyd Bridges providing great support as his commander; Valeria Golino and Jon Cryer also star. *** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

"LIFE STINKS" (MGM/UA, \$94.99): Though not quite up to the level of his no-holds-barred satires like "Blazing Saddles" and "Young Frankenstein," this comedy still lets director and star Mel Brooks milk some good laughs from its premise. In a "Trading Places"-like plot, he plays a wealthy man out to win a bet by becoming a street person for a month; Lesley Ann Warren also appears. ** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

"MOBSTERS" (MCA/Universal, \$91.95): If it's not accepted as the absolute truth about its subjects, this stylish representation of the younger years of several gangland figures is entertaining in a very slick way. Patrick Dempsey, Richard Grieco, Costas Mandylor and Christian Slater act out the rants of such famous criminals as Bugs Siegel — sorry, Warren Beatty — and Lucky Luciano. ** (R: AS, P, V)

COMING SOON: "BINGO" (Columbia/TriStar, Feb. 19): A savvy dog is the title star of this family-orientated comedy, with Cindy Williams among the human performers. (PG)

"DON'T TELL MOM THE BABYSITTER'S DEAD" (HBO, Feb. 19): "Married... With Children's" Christina Applegate and siblings quickly become sitters. (PG-13)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at this puzzle. Find the words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then circle it off the list. Checking it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

COMIC BOOK FAVORITES (Sol. 8 letters)

A-Action, Aquaman, Archie, Avengers; B-Batman; C-Casper, Chayenne Kid, Cisco Kid, Classic Conan, Crazy D; Detective, Disney, Dr. Strange; E-Eerie, Elmo; F-Flash; G-Ghost, Gorgo; H-Hawk, Henry; Hulk; I-Iron Man; K-Kathy; L-Li Abner, Little Nemo; N-Nova; P-Phantom, Popeye; R-Richie Rich; S-Sad Sack, Sheena, Spider-Man; T-Tarzan; W-Wonder Woman.

This Week's Answer: SUPERMAN

OMLESREGNEVAABE
KCADSASYHTAKCRE
CONANANEHSTKTER
HEAAQHAWKPASINI
EVMVEUFNYZOHODE
YITOTALAEYHCPNAO
ETANAKNMGROHTSG
NCBSLSPHANTOMTR
NEHLITLLENEMOAO
ETSDLDIKOCSIORG
KECLASSICPHENRY
IDMUBNAMREDIPSR
DIRONMANKOOLRW
HCIREHCEIREPSAC
DRSTRANGEIDNOLB

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Australia	637246/7
Austrian Embassy	674750
Bahrain	664148
Belgian	675683
Bulgarian	818151
Canadian	666124
Chilean	661336
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	677569
Czechoslovakian	665105
Danish Consulate Gen.	622324
Finnish Consulate	623443
French	641273/4
German	689351
Greek	672331
Hungarian	816614
Indian	637262
Iraqi	639331
Italian	638185
Consulate Gen. Ireland	630878
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Olympic	630125/638433
PIA	625981
Philippine Airlines	670155
Polish Airlines	625981
Qantas	641430/655447
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Saudia	639333
Scandinavian Airlines	604649
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Museums

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 638795.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Weibdeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630128.

Churches

St. Joseph Church: (Roman Catholic). Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation: (Roman Catholic). Jabal Weibdeh. Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church: (Roman Catholic). Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.

Terrassanta Church: (Roman Catholic). Jabal Weibdeh, mass in Italian every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation: (Greek Orthodox). Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Church of the Redeemer: Jabal Amman. Tel. 625383.

Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church: (Syrian Orthodox). Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

Ammon International Church: (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 827981.

Church of the Good Shepherd: (Evangelical Lutheran). Um As-Summaq. Tel. 811295.